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Paper offers apology to PM Harper

STORY A daily newspaper in New Brunswick has apologized to Stephen Harper for a story it published on July 8 that said the prime minister slipped a communion wafer in his jacket pocket at a funeral mass for former governor general Romeo LeBlanc.

The front-page apology in yesterday's Telegraph-Journal says the story was "inaccurate and should not have been published."

"We pride ourselves in maintaining high standards of journalism and ethical reporting, and regret this was not followed in this case," it says. THE CANADIAN PRESS

World pg 7

Boy recruits rescued from Taliban

Metro Drive pg 16

Driving force behind Argos

Soccer **Reds get ready for Islanders**

CARLOS OSORIO/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Toronto FC players perform drills during practice yesterday at BMO Field. TFC hosts the Puerto Rico Islanders tonight at 8 at BMO Field. It's the opening game of the CONCACAF Champions League. See Ben Rycroft's It's Called Football column, page 9.

Sentenced to life

Teen 'puppet master' gets adult term in Rengel murder

A teenage girl with a "capacity for manipulation" and a "lack of empathy" who waged a relentless campaign to have her 14-year-old perceived romantic rival killed was sentenced yesterday to life in prison for the "malevolent" crime.

Previously identified only as M.T. because she was just shy of her 16th birthday at the time of the murder, her adult sentence for first-degree murder means Melissa Todorovic can now be named.

At her behest, Todorovic's then 17-year-old boyfriend lured Stefanie Rengel from Rengel's home on New Year's Day 2008. The boyfriend, known only as D.B., has pleaded guilty to stabbing Rengel six times and leaving her to die in a snowbank.

Ontario Superior Court Justice Ian Nordheimer said it was a "horrific" crime committed "for reasons that are still unfathomable," and the facts of the case are unprecedented.

Defence lawyer Marshall Sack had maintained Todorovic was less culpable than D.B. because he was the one who actually stabbed Rengel, but Nordheimer disagreed.

"Put simply, the puppet master is not less blameworthy than the puppet," he told the court. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Flaherty remains cautious

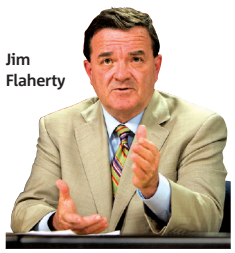
Canada's economy may be showing signs of life, but federal Finance Minister Jim Flaherty isn't yet ready to declare the recession over.

There are signs a recovery is taking a foothold, Flaherty told reporters yesterday on his way into a Conservative caucus meeting, where the economy was high on the agenda.

But declaring the recession over might be premature, the minister said.

"No, I think we will have to look back as we always do and look at this quarter," Flaherty said when asked flatly whether he agreed with the Bank of Canada's most recent assessment of the economy.

"There are good signs that the economy has stabilized," he said. "There are the beginnings of a recovery, and I wouldn't put it any stronger than that." THE CANADIAN PRESS



Jim Flaherty

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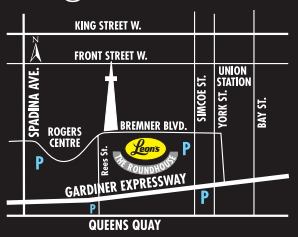

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Best Buy collects 3,000 pounds of food for Daily Bread
The 12 Best Buy locations in the GTA recently delivered more than 3,000 pounds of food in a month-long campaign food drive for the Daily Bread Food Bank. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Local

NDP petitioning to drop HST

Opposition parties say thousands of people are speaking up against Ontario's plan to merge sales taxes next year and believe there's still time to stop it. NDP Leader Andrea Horwath, left, says more than 50,000 people have signed her party's petition to stop the government's plan to harmonize sales taxes — a move she calls an unfair tax grab on everyday essentials. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Tomorrow's Metro

Relating

Sofi Papamarko on the difference between bachelor and bachelorette parties.

metronews.ca

WHAT'S ONLINE TODAY

Video Police release an interrogation tape of the teenage girl convicted of killing Stefanie Rengel at **metronews.ca/canada**

Blogs Backbeat gets nostalgic for the days of great album cover art

Video Canadian astronaut Julie Payette says goodbye to space station and begins trip back to Earth at **metronews.ca/canada**

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These results are not official.

TTC staff hit with theft charges

Employee who made $125K last year among those arrested

Three TTC collectors are accused of stealing, $2.75 at a time, as much as $20,000 in fares over the course of a year.

In the past week, three ticket collectors at some of the city's busiest subway stops — Union, Queen and Eglinton, all on the Yonge line — have been charged with theft under $5,000, as well as several counts of failing to collect a fare.

Det. Rob Ermacora said the fact that these were three unconnected thefts should raise alarm bells for the TTC.

"How often were they doing this? We're not (100 per cent) sure. It could have been every customer ... you do the math," he said. "Is there a potential for a systemic problem, you never know, right?"

TTC officials were alerted to the alleged fraud by a concerned rider, who noticed that after paying, the collector simply waved the rider through, rather than sliding the fare back for the customer to put in the collection box — as protocol demands. The TTC special constables launched an investigation with the assistance of Toronto police using surveillance cameras — there are two pointed at every collection booth — and undercover officers. Yesterday morning, 57-year-old Toilane Fountain was arrested at the Queen subway station. Last Wednesday, 65-year-old Anthony Alfano and Kiran Sachdev, 56, were charged. Sachdev made more than $125,000 last year, earning him a spot on the Ontario government's "Sunshine List." Each has been suspended without pay and if convicted will be fired, said one official.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Study turns up heat on tanning industry

CANCER Tanning beds are as deadly as mustard gas, arsenic, plutonium and other known carcinogens, international cancer experts have ruled.

The International Agency for Research on Cancer yesterday moved UV tanning beds and ultraviolet radiation to its highest cancer risk category, removing any ambiguity about their threat.

The move was based on a review of studies, which found the risk of skin melanoma increases by 75 per cent when the use of tanning devices starts before the age of 30.

In Ontario, the Canadian Cancer Society is calling for restrictions on the tanning industry, including an all-out ban for patrons younger than 18.

According to the cancer society, artificial tanning lights can emit rays five times stronger than the midday sun.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

ADRIEN VECZAN/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

A lineup grows yesterday to buy Via Rail tickets at Union Station. After the short strike on the weekend, Via Rail announced it was extending its seat sale promotion.

Via sale extended after overwhelming demand

TRAVEL Via Rail Canada stepped up damage control and yesterday extended its 60 per cent discount offer after customers jammed phone lines and crashed the agency's website in a rush to buy tickets.

The deadline, originally today, was moved to Friday at 11:59 p.m. "due to the overwhelming response from customers," Via Rail spokeswoman Ashley Doyle said yesterday.

Discount

- The 60 per cent discount applies to travel to all Canadian destinations before Dec. 14.

The extension couldn't have come a moment sooner, as a queue at Union Station grew to more than 100 people at one point.

Via announced the discount Sunday in the wake of a brief strike that saw 350 locomotive engineers walk off the job Friday, halting trains and stranding travellers across the country in the middle of the peak summer season.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Caribana Lime moving to Ontario Place

EVENTS The island may be deserted, but the Caribana Lime will go on.

The annual Caribana Lime festival has been moved to Ontario Place this Sunday from its traditional spot on Toronto Island. Organizers had hoped the city strike would be resolved before the event had to be moved due to the docked ferries, but went ahead with their plan to move the venue to Ontario Place when the strike wore on, said Stephen Weir, a spokesperson for Caribana.

Next year?

- Caribana organizers are not sure if the Lime will return to the island next year.

Even though a tentative agreement has been reached in the strike, the Lime will still be held at Ontario Place. The theme park has lowered the cost of general admission for the day to $14. An upgrade to use the rides will cost extra, said Terry Caddo, director of communications at Ontario Place.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

News in brief

COURT The family of a 17-year-old boy who was seriously injured in a tobogganing accident at a ski club north of Toronto has won the right to sue the Ontario government for delays in sending an air ambulance, which they allege contributed to his death. The lawsuit is filed by the family of Patrick Heaslip.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Two charged in April attack at GO station

Two men have been charged after a man was badly beaten and robbed in the parking lot of Whitby's GO station parking lot on April 13. Charged with robbery are Patrick O'Connor, 20, and a 16-year-old male, both of Whitby. The 16-year-old also faces two counts of breaching probation. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Taxpayers could save millions

DECISIONS Even after the city strike, Toronto likely will face an uncertain fiscal situation until CUPE workers make difficult financial decisions.

Sources say the agreements between the city and Locals 416 and 79 freeze the controversial sick-bank system. Current workers, however, can trade banked days for a partial payout or collect a presumably larger payout upon retirement.

Reserve

- The city has allocated $63 million to a sick-bank reserve but it is unclear if the reserve is large enough to cover near-term payouts.

The city says its sick-bank liability for the two locals totals $140 million. If, for example, half of the 30,000 striking employees took a payout in the near future, taxpayers would save millions in the long run — but could take a quick hit of the approximately $40 million paid out for sick days over the last two years. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Some frustrated with back-to-work timeline

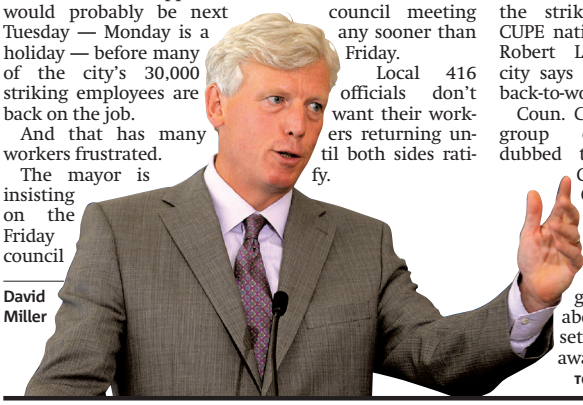
A chorus of civic workers and some councillors want the city back on track immediately after Toronto civic workers ratify the proposed contract with the City of Toronto today.

T.O.CivicStrike

The city and CUPE Locals 416 and 79 are ironing out a back-to-work protocol, but so far the plan is to have the workers come back after the locals ratify a tentative agreement today and the city does so Friday. If that were to happen it would probably be next Tuesday — Monday is a holiday — before many of the city's 30,000 striking employees are back on the job.

And that has many workers frustrated.

The mayor is insisting on the Friday council meeting because he wants to see results from the union's vote before he asks council for its approval. If the vote isn't counted until tonight, as union officials are predicting, Miller says he probably won't be able to issue a notice of meeting until tomorrow morning, and the required 24-hour notice rules out a council meeting any sooner than Friday.



David Miller

Local 416 officials don't want their workers returning until both sides ratify.

In addition, "we don't think the city has a plan for its workers to return until council ratifies," said CUPE Local 416 spokeswoman Pat Daley.

However, a spokesman for Local 79 feels those workers could go back after today's vote. "If the contract's ratified, we can go back to work the next day — and we should, because we want to get back to providing the services the public has been missing since the strike began," said CUPE national spokesman Robert Lamoureux. The city says it will release a back-to-work plan today.

Coun. Case Ootes and a group of councillors dubbed the Responsible Government Group asked Miller yesterday to speed up the approval process — and to give them details about the tentative settlement right away. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Cops praise alert border guards for heroin bust

DRUGS Border guards at Pearson International Airport found 8.6 kilograms of high-grade heroin in crates of pots and pans, stacked on three wooden skids that had been unloaded off a cargo plane from Pakistan, police said.

That sparked a three-week investigation that triggered one of the largest heroin busts in Canada.

"If those guards hadn't spotted those crates, we would have never found the rest," said RCMP Supt. Ron Allen of the July 4 discovery. The Greater Toronto Area Drug Section, headed by Allen, tracked the illicit import to a home in Toronto, and last week, officers raided several homes and storage units there and in Brampton, finding another 108 kilograms of heroin and nearly $650,000 in cash. If sold on the streets, the drugs could fetch more than $100 million. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

JESSE MCLEAN/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Supt. Ron Allen, head of RCMP's Greater Toronto Area Drug Section, speaks at a press conference yesterday.

News in brief

PROBE Toronto Hydro has called in the police and launched an investigation after learning someone has obtained customer information without authorization. The province's privacy commissioner is also investigating the breach, in which names, addresses, Hydro account numbers, the amount of the last bill and any money owed may have been accessed. The utility suspects access was gained through its electronic billing system. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Couple face charges after death of baby girl
A Halifax couple, Ashiqur Rahman and Jane Gomes, both 23, face charges of aggravated assault after the death of their seven-week-old girl. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada

Payette heads home

Canadian Julie Payette has bade farewell to her fellow astronauts on the International Space Station and was heading back to Earth yesterday. Payette spent about two weeks on the space station with fellow Canadian Robert Thirsk and 11 other astronauts.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Ontario plays politics over Nortel: Clement

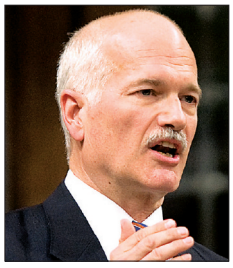
But Layton says technology too valuable to lose

It's politics — that's Industry Minister Tony Clement's take on Ontario's objections to the sale of Nortel Network's cutting-edge technology.

Clement said in Ottawa the province hasn't raised the issue before even though the sale of the telecom's assets has been widely published.

Nortel's next-generation technology is being sold to Swedish wireless giant Ericsson.

Clement said he wonders whether the provincial Liberal government is trying to deflect attention away from its own troubles.



NDP Leader Jack Layton wants a Commons review.

NDP Leader Jack Layton also weighed in on the controversy.

He's appealing to the other parties in Parliament to convene an emergency session of the Commons industry committee to review the impact of the sale.

He says the technology is too important to lose to a foreign company that might cut jobs and deprive workers of pension benefits.

The NDP has joined a growing chorus of opponents of the deal, including the federal Liberals and BlackBerry maker Research In Motion, which made an informal bid for Nortel's assets.

Clement has not said whether he will review the $1.13-billion-US sale.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Karlheinz Schreiber watches inquiry proceedings yesterday.

Mulroney-Schreiber probe ends

HEARINGS The long haul is over: Yesterday was the last day of an inquiry into former prime minister Brian Mulroney's financial dealings with businessman Karlheinz Schreiber.

Schreiber has been fighting extradition to Germany, where he faces fraud, bribery, corruption and tax evasion charges

Justice Jeffrey Oliphant has until Dec. 31 to deliver his report.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

EI numbers hit a peak in May

ECONOMY The number of Canadians receiving regular EI benefits in May hit its highest level since 1997.

Ontario and Alberta showed the most pronounced spikes.

Statistics Canada says the EI roll swelled to 778,700, a 9.2 per cent increase from April's figures.

In Ontario, EI beneficiaries increased by 16 per cent to 274,100 between April and May.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

LOST Valerie Cain, 45, who spent six days lost in woods near Red Lake, Ont., built fires to stay warm and snacked on cherries and crackers.

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Comment

How can you sequester free speech?

TheWestView

I'm not sure if it's safe to ask, but I have a question. It's directed at "they," that bunch in charge of Vancouver's 2010 Winter Olympics.

Don't get me wrong. I love watching skaters whiz by, blades flashing across the ice, in pursuit of the puck, a world record or a triple Axel.

Basically, I'm happy the world's greatest winter athletes will assemble here in Vancouver in approximately 200 days.

But if I was a sworn critic of the Games — and there are plenty — I'd have legitimate cause to protest. These Games are a mixed blessing: They cost at least $6 billion when all levels of government are pressed to pay for basics like health care, and they require immense patience from We The Rabble, as we are endlessly rerouted and otherwise inconvenienced in preparation for the events, which come and go over a mere two weeks.

Anyway, here's the question: Why do we need "free-speech zones" at the 2010 Games? Because that's what we're getting — areas set aside, close to event sites and the media centre, where lawful protest can take place.

I thought all of Canada was a "free-speech zone," as in: "Freedom of thought, belief, opinion and expression, including freedom of the press and other media of communication; freedom of peaceful assembly; and freedom of association." *(Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms)*

So why is Vancouver Olympic Committee's 2010 Integrated Security Unit (ISU) containing these fundamental freedoms into what the wags around here call "protest pens?"

What are they afraid of? And how will protest pens contain that threat, whatever it is?

If we have the right to free peaceful assembly, we should have that right in any public place, too bad if it's in full view of TV cameras ready to beam that discontent around the world.

More and more, the real dark side of the 2010 Games is the atmosphere of fear and paranoia coming out of the Games' ISU, which seems compelled to act like the KGB, pulling over Olympic protesters, demanding to see their "documents," spying on protesters, installing omnipresent surveillance cameras and building these ridiculous protest pens, which will only serve to motivate protesters in full view of the world.

This is Vancouver, not Beijing, the birthplace of the protest pen.

There, question asked. I hope "they" are willing to cough up an honest answer and not just get it into their heads to pull me over for, um, further questioning.

Paul Sullivan is a Vancouver-based journalist and owner of Sullivan Media Consulting; vancouverletters@metronews.ca.

Word on the street: What would make you give up your car to walk, bike or take public transportation to work?

Ian Chen
age 24, Toronto

A: If they could make the TTC more reliable, less crowded, more time efficient ... Yeah, I'd take the TTC.

Jelena Zaric
age 30, Toronto

A: Car? What!? I love my bike!!!

Rob Holmyard
age 45, Toronto

A: I'm about a 20-minute walk away, so I'm lucky enough that I can walk to work and don't need a car.

Rebecca Blakey
age 20, Ottawa

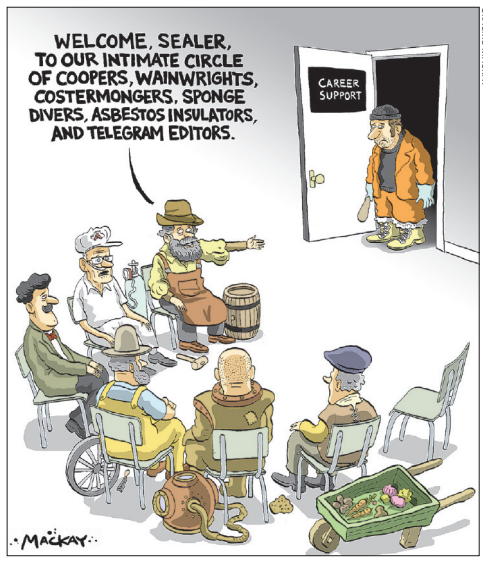
A: I wouldn't drive a car — I bike. It's better for you physically and better for the environment.

Eric Harker
age 23, Calgary

A: I don't think I ever would because of all the stuff I have to haul around like groceries.

Jessica Russel
age 27, North Vancouver

A: If a chauffeur picked me up and drove me to work I'd be willing to give up my car.



GRAEME MACKAY

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Fox's commentator calls Obama racist

Fox News Channel's Glenn Beck says he believes U.S. President Barack Obama is a racist. Beck made the statement on the "Fox & Friends" morning show. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

World

Pakistan forces rescue Taliban child recruits

Pakistan's security forces have rescued several children forcibly recruited by the Taliban, allegedly to be used as fighters or suicide bombers, and there could be hundreds more of them, officials said yesterday.

The claim came as a suicide car bomber rammed his vehicle into a checkpoint in Pakistan's North Waziristan tribal region, causing an explosion that killed two police and wounded five other security officials, authorities said.

Pakistani troops are engaged in offensives against the Taliban in various areas along the lawless border with Afghanistan, fighting militants often drawn from among the local communities.

> **"They have been brainwashed and trained as suicide bombers."**
> Pakistani Lt. Gen. Nadeem Ahmed

Lt. Gen. Nadeem Ahmed said he had met with nine boys rescued from the Taliban.

"They have been brainwashed and trained as suicide bombers, but the nine who I met seemed willing to get back to normal life," he told Pakistani state-run television.

Maj. Nasir Ali, spokesman for forces in Swat, told AP that most of the children who had been rescued were taken from a Taliban training camp in Swat after a firefight, although some had turned themselves in later.

He did not say when the rescue occurred.

"The account we are getting from these boys is that there could be many more such cases, and we believe that most of them have dispersed among the public," he said.

"We promise that we will do our best to rehabilitate them."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News in brief

SOMALIA Thousands of Somalis fleeing fighting around the capital of Mogadishu have massed in a northern town, trying to cross the Gulf of Aden and sneak into Yemen, the UN refugee agency said yesterday. The UNHCR said nearly a quarter of a million Somalis had fled their homes since May 7, when newly unified Islamist insurgents launched a concerted attack on Mogadishu.

MIDDLE EAST United Nations agencies and two dozen international aid groups urged Israel yesterday to lift its blockade of Gaza or at least allow in construction materials to repair war-damaged schools. Of Gaza's 640 schools, 18 were flattened and 280 suffered damage during Israel's three-week offensive against Hamas rulers seven months ago, the groups said in a statement. Since the war, Israel has refused to allow construction materials into Gaza. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dismembered baby's mom schizophrenic, relatives say

MURDER Relatives of the Texas mother of a three-week-old boy found dismembered in his bedroom said she was diagnosed with schizophrenia and postpartum psychosis, and the father of the slain baby said he wants the woman executed. Otty Sanchez, 33, is charged with capital murder in the death of Scott Wesley Buchholtz-Sanchez. When authorities found the infant's body Sunday, Sanchez told officers the devil made her do it, police said.

"She was a sweet person and I still love her, but she needs to pay the ultimate price for what she has done," the baby's father, Scott Buchholtz, said Monday. "She needs to be put to death for what she has done."

Otty Sanchez is seen with her son, Scott Wesley Buchholtz-Sanchez in this July 1 photo released by Scott Buchholtz.

Relatives and Buchholtz said Sanchez's mental health deteriorated in the week before her son's death. Sanchez remains hospitalized with self-inflicted stab wounds and was being held on $1 million bail. Authorities found the baby with three of his toes chewed off, his face torn away and his head was severed. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Quebec cash for Transcontinental
Commercial printer Transcontinental announced yesterday that it has secured $135 million in financing from the Quebec government and a major European bank to purchase production equipment. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Business

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EDITOR: FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Business in brief

MINING Copper producer Inmet Mining Corp. said yesterday both profits and revenues declined in the second quarter due to lower sales volumes and weaker prices for some of its key base metals. The Toronto-based miner reported net income of $66.5 million, down two per cent from year-earlier profit of $67.7 million.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

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ADVANCING GENERICS

Rogers still going strong

Aggressive cost control and a flurry of high-tech smartphone releases helped Rogers Communications Inc. beat analyst expectations yesterday.

It also drove the telecommunications giant to improved profits and revenues in a traditionally slow period in the midst of a recession. Even so, Rogers downgraded its revenue outlook for the year ahead, dropping expectations for consolidated top line growth to between two and four per cent, down from earlier predictions of five to nine per cent.

Toronto-based Rogers reported yesterday net income of $374 million or 59 cents per share for the quarter ended June 30, up from year-earlier profits of $301 million or 47 cents per share.

"The quarter reflects the strength of our franchises ... though we're clearly moving through some challenging economic times," Rogers chief executive Nadir Mohamed said.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Confidence in U.S. economy waning

JOB SECURITY Americans' confidence in the economy darkened further in July as worries about job security offset any enthusiasm about the resumed stock market rally that has helped bolster retirement accounts. The New York-based Conference Board said yesterday that its consumer confidence index, which retreated last month, fell to 46.6, down from 49.3 in June. Economists were expecting a reading of 49.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Japan Canon sales dropping

KOJI SASAHARA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Shoppers walk by a Canon digital camera sales counter at a store in Tokyo yesterday. Canon Inc. said second quarter profit sank 86 per cent as the global economic malaise weighed on sales of its copy machines, printers and digital cameras.

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Simpsons to take up curling
Curling will be getting some prime-time exposure just prior to next year's Winter Olympics in Vancouver as Homer and Marge Simpson take up one of Canada's favourite sports. An episode of the long-running comedy The Simpsons featuring the cartoon power couple playing the game is scheduled to run in early February. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Sports

F1 legend considers return

Michael Schumacher, left, the former Ferrari driver who holds nearly every record in Formula One, would consider coming out of retirement if Ferrari asked the seven-time champion to drive for the injured Felipe Massa, his spokeswoman said yesterday. "If Ferrari approaches Michael, he would think about it," Sabine Kehm told German news agency DPA, adding that it is up to Ferrari to make the first move. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: CHRIS.CLEMENTS@METRONEWS.CA

Must-win game for TFC

Puerto Rico Islanders visit BMO Field in Champions League opener

It'sCalledFootball
Ben Rycroft
metronews.ca/itscalledfootball

CARLOS OSORIO/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Toronto FC players are seen running drills during practice at BMO field. TFC will play host to the Puerto Rico Islanders tonight as they open play in the CONCACAF Champions League.

As Toronto FC embarks on its bid for the glory of the CONCACAF Champions League tonight, it's become apparent that anything besides an outright win by the Reds at BMO Field will be considered a loss.

TFC knows this. Their opponent, the Puerto Rico Islanders, know this. And that's why you can expect the Islanders to come out and play a bland, boring brand of soccer — the same kind the tiny USL-1 squad rode from its beaches to the semi-finals of last year's Champions League.

In this home-and-home series, the Islanders represent a serious threat to Toronto's intentions to move on.

TFC, for all the advances to its attack this season (Pablo Vitti, Ali Gerba, Dwayne De Rosario), is still a squad that is remarkably awkward in its back four.

The counter-attacking goal by Columbus in extra time last weekend caught Toronto exposed, going balls out on the attack, and turned what would have been a solid road point into a disappointing loss.

This is exactly the kind of goal Puerto Rico is capable of scoring. They sit and wait and counter when the opportunity presents itself — then return to their bunkering style, hoping to drag opponents back to the island, down a point and now forced to contend with the stifling heat and humidity.

Puerto Rico didn't defeat the giants of North American football in 2008 by pretending to be something they're not, but they did find a system that works in a home-and-home format. And when a team comes in determined to not play for the win, all the pressure falls to the other squad to perform.

Toronto coach Chris Cummins has won fans this year for his vision to find and adjust formations that break down opponents. Finding one that can bust that bunker without leaving them exposed at the back will be a true test for the coach.

It's Called Football sets up TFC's match with the Puerto Rico Islanders at: metronews.ca/blogs

Watch Ben Rycroft on the It's Called Football show every Monday at metronews.ca; ben.rycroft@metronews.ca

Sports in brief

FOOTBALL Jim Johnson, whose attacking defences helped the Eagles to one Super Bowl appearance and five NFC title games, has died. He was 68. Johnson had taken a leave of absence from the team in May as he continued to battle a cancerous tumour on his spine.

HOCKEY The Carolina Hurricanes said yesterday they have bought out the remaining year on the contract of defenceman Frantisek Kaberle, who would have made $2.2 million US.

GOLF General Motors Co. will end run as sponsor of the Buick Open golf tournament as it focuses marketing dollars on its cars and trucks, a person briefed on the decision said yesterday.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

MLS all-stars face Everton tonight

SOCCER Nearing the end of one of the most successful soccer careers an American has had, Kasey Keller is a rookie again.

The 39-year-old goalkeeper is making his all-star debut tonight when a Major League Soccer squad hosts Everton, a club Keller knows well from his years playing in England's Premier League.

"This is new to me, as well. This is my first all-star game so I don't really quite know how it all works out," Keller said.

Keller has six shutouts for the expansion Sounders and was among the first 11 players voted to the MLS team, 5-0 against international opponents under the unusual all-star format. The league scrapped its East versus West game and started inviting pro teams from other countries.

Everton is winding up a North American tour as it prepares for the season opener Aug. 15 at home against Arsenal.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Alouettes take CFL weekly honours

Montreal Alouette Anthony Calvillo was named the CFL offensive player of the week yesterday and teammate Anwar Stewart picked up the defensive honours. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Bruce not wanted?

Arland Bruce III is still a Toronto Argonaut, at least for now.

The Argos returned to the practice field yesterday without Bruce. The start slotback was barred from the team last week by head coach Bart Andrus and it's obvious the two remain at odds.

The five-foot-11, 194-pound Bruce didn't attend team meetings yesterday morning and wasn't on the field when practice began afterwards.

Bruce was reportedly poised to rejoin his teammates before being told by club officials earlier in the morning to stay away.

Bruce met with Argos GM Adam Rita on Sunday but it's Andrus who is said to have final say on his future. And yesterday, the first-year CFL head coach made it very clear he doesn't want Bruce around.

"He's not here today because I don't want him here today," Andrus said emphatically. "That's why. "We're looking at a lot of different things, a lot of different ways to bring this to a resolution. But right now I do not want him around the team."

Arland Bruce

Andrus didn't bring Bruce to Winnipeg for last Friday's 19-5 victory against the Blue Bombers, saying he was disciplining the six-year Argo for breaking team rules.

Instead of quietly accepting the move, Bruce, in his eighth CFL season, made matters worse by publicly criticizing Andrus and quarterback Kerry Joseph.

Andrus remained very non-committal about Bruce's return, saying he's not broached that subject yet.

But both Andrus's body language and the emphatic tone of his voice as he spoke strongly suggested Bruce's days in Toronto were numbered.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Favre will stay retired: Vikings

FOOTBALL Brett Favre won't be coming out of retirement to play for Minnesota.

Vikings coach Brad Childress confirmed to The Associated Press in a text message yesterday that the three-time MVP quarterback for the Green Bay Packers would not join his team when training camp opens later this week. Favre's decision was first reported by The Star Tribune on its website.

Childress told the paper Favre did not want to put himself through the grind of a 19th NFL season. Favre himself did not immediately offer a comment from Hattiesburg, Miss., where he worked out with high school players this summer in a bid to keep in shape for a potential return to the NFL.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Buehrle sets pitching record
Chicago White Sox ace Mark Buehrle set a major league record by retiring his 42nd straight batter last night against the Twins. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jays' costs can be controlled: Rogers

Rogers Communications Inc., says it's committed to the Toronto Blue Jays and the baseball club's costs can be controlled as trade speculation hovers over Roy Halladay and his teammates.

Speaking during a conference call to discuss the company's quarterly earnings yesterday, CEO Nadir Mohamed was asked by an analyst about the team's place within the company given its continued financial losses and payroll disparity with its rivals.

"We remain obviously committed to the Blue Jays," Mohamed said.

The Blue Jays are spending around $81 million US on players this season, well back of their AL East rivals. The New York Yankees payroll is just more than $200 million, while the Boston Red Sox are at $123 million.

"We believe that the financial performance of the Blue Jays can improve."
Tony Viner, Rogers Media

Tony Viner, president of Rogers Media, the division responsible for the Blue Jays, said the team's spending is being brought in line with its revenues and that it remains an important part of the company's overall business.

"We believe that the financial performance of the Blue Jays can improve," he said during the call. "In fact, it's the one division of the media company this year, year-over-year performance is better than it was.

"We think that we can bring costs reasonably under control and more in line with revenues and our revenues are actually increasing in certain parts of the business, so as you know the Jays form an important part of our programming schedule on Rogers Sportsnet, which is another division of the company which has done recently well and especially during the recession."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Doc to Boston?

• The Red Sox have offered at least three players to the Jays in exchange for ace Roy Halladay, Yahoo! Sports reported yesterday. The package included right-hander Clay Buchholz, minor league pitcher Michael Bowden and top outfield prospect Ryan Westmoreland. Because the Jays want a shortstop, Boston could try to bring a third team into negotiations to complete the deal, the report said. METRO NEWS SERVICES

For a recap of the Blue Jays' game last night in Seattle, visit: metronews.ca/sports

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Jays VS Orioles

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Metro Workology exclusive: Backstage Pass

Metro's Workology section is focusing on the part of the entertainment industry that you DON'T see. Backstage Pass will focus on the careers behind the camera and the curtain. So be sure to read Workology and Metronews.ca/work every day.

Workology

EDITOR: DOUGLAS.DUNLOP@METRONEWS.CA

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Backstage Pass

JON TATTRIE
for Metro Canada

"To me at the time, that was amazing. Oddly enough, things haven't changed."

Writer Albert Howell on making $30 a night when he started

The first funny writing Albert Howell did was for his 1,000-word application to law school. He wrote: "I like law because..."

He then realized that he in fact did not like law, and decided to become a TV comedy screenwriter instead. Today, he puts his political science degree to good use writing for CBC's This Hour Has 22 Minutes, but it was a long trek to get there. In the early years, he put the "free" in "freelance."

"That's always a great filter to see whether someone is serious or not: How long they will do it for free," he says. "People usually get tired of it after a couple of months."

Howell stuck it out for three years, supplementing his income by doing improv with Loose Moose Theatre in Calgary for an amazing $30 a night.

"To me at the time, that was amazing. Oddly enough, things haven't changed," he jokes. He kept at it because he loves story telling. "It just turned out they always ended up being funny. They weren't always intentionally funny, but they made people laugh, so decided to call it comedy, to say 'Yeah, I meant to make people laugh.' Inside, a single tear is falling down my cheek."

Howell, who has written for Second City and appeared on Little Mosque on the Prairie, lives and works in Toronto in the summer and moves to Halifax for the September-to-March 22 Minutes season. While in Halifax, he also works with improv legends Picnicface. That mixed profile is typical of screenwriters, as there are few full-time, year-round jobs.

The pressure of writing on a weekly deadline for a live audience really fires him up at 22 Minutes.

"It's always more fun when there's a deadline," he explains. That removes the "filters" of over-thinking a joke. It also keeps him sharp, as he and the other writers spend the live tapings watching the audience's reaction.

"Sometimes we're like, Yes! And others we're like, really? I actually thought that was pretty funny, ladies and gentlemen," he deadpans.

Humber College offers a program in television writing and producing. York University has a program for screenwriting and many universities touch on screenwriting as part of their theatre programs.

For more of the Backstage Pass exclusive series check Workology frequently or stop by: metronews.ca/work

Gossip does not hold up in court

WorkplaceLaw

Daniel Lublin

Metronews.ca/workplacelaw

After 11 years as the sole service manager for Lee Munro Chevrolet in Paris, Ont., Franklyn Patterson apparently had had enough of his job. The feeling must have been mutual.

The day after a shift, Patterson's wife contacted the company stating that her husband would not be at work for the next few days. However, when Patterson awoke the day after to find his own job posted in the classified section of the local news, he was perplexed.

According to Lee Munro, the principal of the dealership, Patterson's claim for sick leave was a sham. He believed that Patterson's absence from work was a scheme for making a claim under the disability plan. Having heard that Patterson's wife was receiving long-term disability payments, he was certain that Patterson's plan was to do the same. As Munro explained, once Patterson left work, he didn't think he would return, so posting his job was a logical step.

Although the court found that Munro's belief was reasonable, it was not based on evidence — but rather on speculation and gossip.

In this case, the court ruled that is was an "inescapable conclusion" that placing the job ad was tantamount to his dismissal. Patterson was awarded severence and his legal costs.

READ THE WHOLE COLUMN AT METRONEWS.CA/WORKPLACELAW

Daniel A. Lublin is an employment lawyer focusing on the law of dismissal; dan@toronto-employmentlawyer.com.

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Smoother turns
Nissan has developed a new system, called Navigation-Cooperative Intelligent Pedal, that helps drivers make smooth turns by synchronizing the vehicle's navigation, engine, braking and steering systems. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Metro Drive

Car for the blind

Virginia Tech undergrads in the U.S. have remodelled an all-terrain buggy to create a car the blind can drive. The semi-autonomous vehicle uses a laser range finder, voice software and other sensory technology to steer itself. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: KUMAR SAHA, KUMAR.SAHA@METRONEWS.CA

2010 Taurus takes charge

JIM ROBINSON
for Metro Canada

The first generation Taurus (including the Mercury Sable) was one of the most popular cars Ford ever produced. Coupled with the simple, but reliable, Ford Tempo / Mercury Topaz, Ford's coffers swelled and they went on a buying spree gobbling up Volvo, Jaguar, Aston Martin and much of Mazda.

Then things went pear shaped. There are many theories of what went wrong in Dearborn but Carlos Ghosn, the miracle worker who turned Nissan around, has said there is no such thing as good management and bad results, which pretty well sums up where Ford was at the turn of this century.

More recently, the economic and domestic car meltdown has since separated the wheat from the chaff. That Ford did not put its hand out for government aid was reassuring to a lot of consumers who have now changed their minds about Ford.

At the press introduction of the 2010 Taurus lineup, Ford used the phrase "the car that changed America's view of sedans" to describe it. And that's what Ford is hoping will happen again with its full-size flagship sedan.

The core message at the press launch in North Carolina was the Taurus offers more but costs less then its competitors. In fact the base 2010 Taurus SE at $29,999 is $2,000 less than its own 2009 SE.

Ford also made a big thing at the preview about Taurus having more technology features (10 of them class exclusive) than premium luxury cars they benchmarked like the Audi A6 and Lexus ES350.

Some of these are Adaptive Cruise Control and Collision Warning with Brake Support, BLIS (Blind Spot Information System) with Cross Traffic Alert, MyKey and SecuriCode with its Keyless Entry Keypad.

The 2010 Taurus is a full-size car in every sense. Its multi-curved sheet metal takes away some of this visually, but it will fill a normal garage.

The interior, even on the base car, will surprise you. Soft touch trim abounds and the trim fits are as good as the Lexus.

Power is a 3.5-litre DOHC V6 producing 263 hp and 249 lb/ft of torque on regular gasoline. There is a twin-turbo EcoBoost version of the 3.5-litre producing 365 hp and 350 lb/ft of torque but it is only available on the Taurus SHO featured separately on these pages.

Out on the highway, the big Taurus was where it was meant to be, clicking off mile after mile in sixth. For covering long distances in comfort, this car is hard to beat. And it's quiet too thanks to things like triple seals and acoustically laminated windows.

2010 Ford Taurus

Type: Full-size sedan
Price: from $29,999
Engine: 3.5-litre, DOHC V6 (263 hp, 249 lb/ft).
Fuel Economy: FWD, 11.6/7.2L/100 km city/highway; AWD, 12.3/7.9L/100 km city/highway

Highlights

- Costs less than 2009 model
- Comfortable ride
- Impressive tech features

The 2010 Taurus is the new Ford flagship.

The interior of the 2010 Taurus is liberally lined with soft touch materials.

Our new Office of Player Protection is committed to preventing fraud.

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OLG

It's not just a game to us.

New Blizzak tires

Bridgestone has added two new winter tires to its Blizzak product line: the Bridgestone Blizzak DM-V1 and LM-60. These tires are suited for vehicles ranging from light trucks and SUVs to sports cars and sedans. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Eat, drink, be merry and wary

We're now deep into the so-called dog days of summer.

Not to totally bum you out, but I do want to remind you that Statistics Canada reports that deaths by motor vehicle accidents (MVA) spike during warmer weather.

Its 2000-2004 study revealed about eight Canadians died each day in MVAs. Deaths peaked in August 2004, with an average of more than 10 fatalities each day.

Some of the causes of accidents seem mostly evil, like drinking and driving, speeding, recklessness, etc. But lots of other causes are less evil and even somewhat comical.

The CAA says, and I quote, "Far too many accidents have been caused by people trying to avoid getting crumbs or mustard on their pants ... Many more accidents have been caused because a lid popped off a drink or was spilled on a driver's lap." The automakers spend all this time and effort giving us air bags and ABS brakes when all we need are aprons.

Also high on CAA's list of leading causes of accidents is the distraction caused by trying to find and insert CDs and/or or changing radio stations. The CAA advises to insert a CD before you head out, have several mixed CDs at the ready for longer trips, and/or delegate DJ duties to passengers.

I would also highly recommend taking the shrink wrap off new CDs before you head out — because you'll never find that semi-mythical "starter tab" while you're also trying to drive, and then you'll need something like an ice-pick to pierce that shrink wrap, and who has one of those handy in the car? And anyway, why are CDs more tightly wrapped than processed meat? Come on guys, let's loosen things up a bit.

Distraction by any means is becoming a real mover and shaker in the world of car accidents. That's why cellphone use is under such scrutiny.

Talking on a cellphone while driving is one of the leading causes of road accidents, according to CAA statistics.

Researchers have also noticed that on high-speed routes in Europe there is not a corresponding increase in accidents and/or an actual decrease in accidents. They figure these drivers are more engaged and therefore less prone to distraction.

Keep that in mind during boring stretches of highway. Keep engaged and alert. Maybe wear a NASCAR cap and pretend you're Tony Stewart.

I was surprised that "tiredness" was not on the CAA's list of 10 leading causes of car accidents, because driving off the highway is never a small incident.

I love comedian Ray Romano's take on how easily we recover after we've just realized that we actually drove with closed, sleepy eyes for a nanosecond or two. We almost got killed, but we just drive on like nothing happened. He said it would be like noticing you've just missed a stray bullet in your bed, then rolling over and going back to sleep.

Anyway, keep thinking good thoughts and have a safe summer of driving.

Michael Goetz has been writing about cars and editing automotive publications for more than 20 years. He lives in Toronto with his family and a neglected 1967 Jaguar E-type.

On the road

10 Leading causes of car accidents ... and some tips to avoid them:

- Cellphone use: Users are four times more likely to cause an accident.
- Changing CD/radio: Let passengers play DJ.
- Eating in the car: Don't place drinks between your legs.
- Rubbernecking: Surprisingly, many accidents occur near or around current accident scenes.
- Drinking and driving: Don't drink and drive (duh).
- Drug use: Prescription and recreational.
- Driver distraction: Be wary of children and animals in the car.
- Speeding: Especially in residential areas.
- Recklessness: Be on the lookout for jerks and stay clear.
- Shoddy road maintenance: Be on the lookout for large sink holes.

SOURCE: CANADIAN AUTOMOBILE ASSOCIATION

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Outback pricing revealed

Subaru Canada recently announced pricing for the all-new 2010 Outback. Distinguished by bolder and crisper styling, the all-new Outback also introduces an all-new chassis and the Subaru Lineartronic CVT (Continuously Variable Transmission). Capability is enhanced with a segment-first swing-out roof rail and crossbar design and more ground clearance.

The Outback is available with two engines and a variety of packages:

- The entry-level 2.5i PZEV is equipped with Subaru's 170-hp boxer engine, which can be mated to either the new six-speed manual transmission or the Lineartronic CVT. It will cost $28,995 with the manual transmission and $30,195 with the Continuously Variable Transmission (CVT).
- The 2.5i Sport will retail for $31,795 with the manual transmission, and $32,995 with the CVT. The model may be further enhanced with a Limited package of options, and a new Multimedia option package may be added.
- The 3.6R Outback gets a new 3.6-litre, 6-cylinder engine for 2010 that produces 256 hp and uses regular-grade fuel. MSRP for the 3.6R starts at $35,695, and this model may also be equipped with the Limited and Multimedia option packages.

"This new Outback builds significantly on the model's well-deserved reputation for go-anywhere capability combined with lively performance and stable handling under all kinds of driving conditions," said Katsuhiro Yokoyama, president and CEO of SCI. "The new Outback will only enhance the model's image with extra performance, more room and refinement, and even more effective occupant protection."

Subaru recently announced pricing and packages for its 2010 Outback model.

One important new convenience in the Outback is voice-activated mobile phone integration technology for clear communications and hands-free safety and convenience.

The Outback, like all Subaru models, has consistently earned top scores in government and insurance industry crash tests. Subaru's Advanced Ring-Shaped Reinforcement Frame safety structure again forms the foundation for crash protection and occupant safety.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Custom car workshop
Renowned custom car builder Gene Winfield will be offering a two-day workshop in Oshawa in October. The workshop will be hosted by Motor City Car Club. For more information, call Mike Williams at 905-263-8699 or Bob Clarke at 905-728-1161. METRO NEWS SERVICES

G37 a sweet thing

Convertible takes on BMW's 3 series

MARK ATKINSON
for Metro Canada

2010 Infiniti G37 Convertible

Type: Luxury convertible
Price: from $57,400
Engine: 325-hp 3.7-litre V6

Highlights

- Stylish and less expensive than comparable BMW model
- Available in Sport and Premier Edition

For watchers from the sidelines, the luxury automobile market looks like a game of follow-the-leader. Usually, it's BMW in the fore, with the other German and Japanese automakers left playing catch-up.

How so? Two years ago, BMW's latest 3 Series cabriolet debuted with a metal folding hard-top after years of cloth-top versions. So what did the competition do? Launched hardtop convertible versions of their own 3 Series clones: The Lexus IS C and the Infiniti G37 convertible.

The 2010 G37 convertible joins the well-received coupe and sedan in taking on the most popular Bimmer. The Infiniti looks the part, using most of the coupe's striking lines. Company stylists succeeded in maintaining a traditional two-door's proportions, and the G doesn't suffer from its competitor's awkward lines with the three-piece roof in place. After 30 seconds of motorized mechanical ballet, the roof opens, presenting the most attractive tanning bed on the market.

The sheetmetal back of the A-pillar is unique, despite the similarities to the coupe, and the convertible gets a unique rear deck, rear fascia and slimmer LED taillights.

The G37 is built on the same rear-drive platform and shares the same 325-hp 3.7-litre V6 and six-speed manual transmission as other Gs, with a seven-speed automatic a no-cost option. This engine sings a sweet tune whether you're pushing hard or just tootling around.

Mind you, the convertible does like to be driven hard, offering excellent levels of grip, strong brakes, a flexible drivetrain and wonderful feel. The rear track is 3.8 cm wider to accommodate the folding roof, but also aids stability. On the launch route near Chateau Montebell in Quebec, the Infiniti was a willing dance partner.

All convertibles feature a full suite of safety and assist systems including ABS, EBD, traction and stability control, six airbags and automatically deployable rollover bars.

Nifty technology in the cabin includes climate control that adapts how hard it works based on exterior temperature and vehicle speed with the top down, extending the driving season further into spring and fall. Also, the standard Bose audio system now integrates a pair of speakers into each front headrest to provide better surround sound.

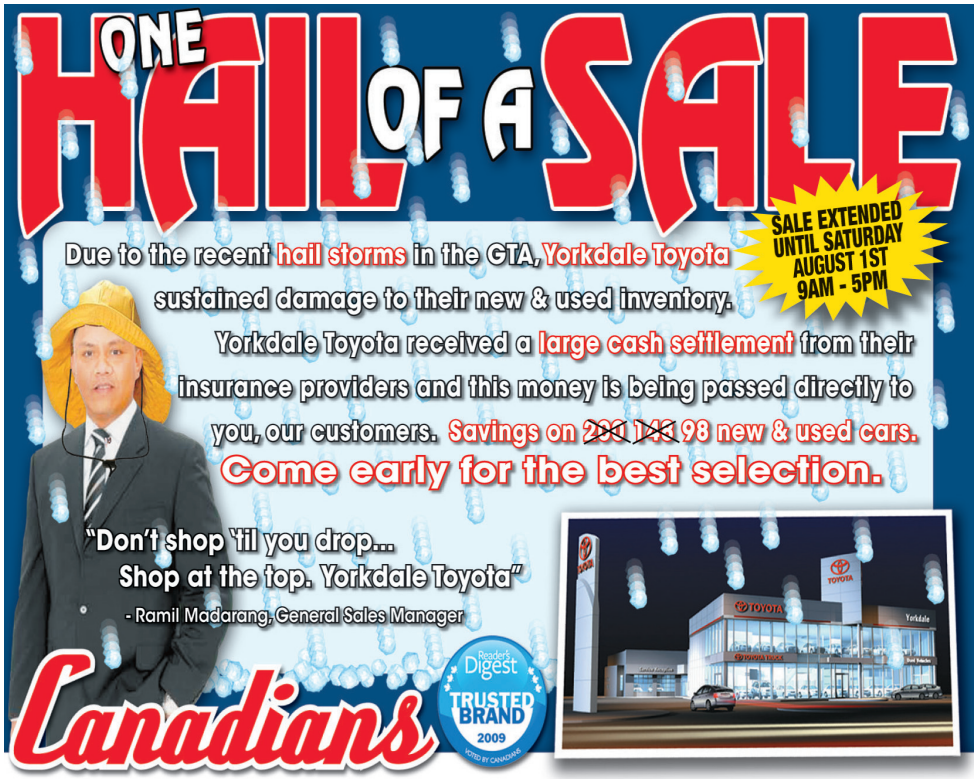
The G37 convertible comes in two flavours: the driver-oriented Sport, and the cushier Premier Edition. The $57,400 Sport features similar equipment to the coupe, including 19-inch aluminum wheels and tires, sport-tuned steering, a unique front fascia, sport seats, aluminum pedals and paddle shifters if you choose the automatic transmission. The Hi-Tech package adds navigation, voice control, intelligent cruise control, adaptive headlights and a 9.3 GB 'Music Box' hard drive for $3,900.

The $60,700 Premier Edition does without the sport-tuned touches, but adds climate-controlled front seats and the Hi-Tech package as standard.

Downsides? Severe weight gain. The Convertible is 200 kg heavier than a similarly equipped coupe. Also, when stowed, the roof leaves little leftover space in the trunk; forget golf clubs, you'd be lucky to fit a couple dozen golf balls.

Overall, the G37 convertible offers a stylish alternative to a similarly equipped BMW 335i Cabriolet for about $10,000 less, although you'll have to be sharp at packing for long-distance trips.

Inside, the G37 convertible features some nifty technology.

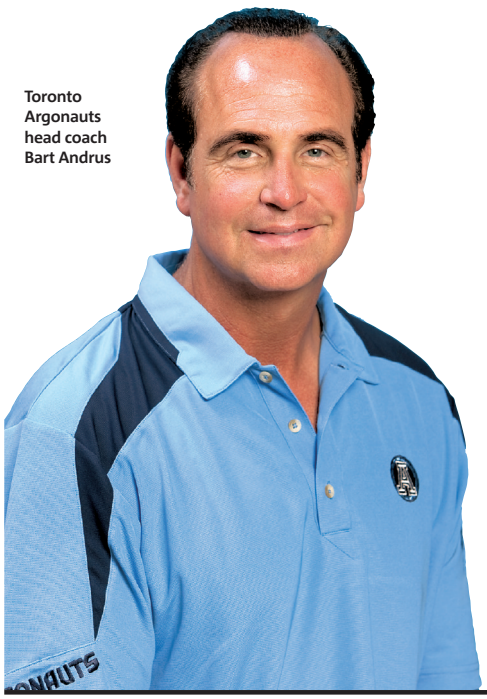


¥*Limited time lease and finance offers available from Toyota Financial Services on approved credit. License, registration, PPSA, insurance, applicable fees and taxes are extra. MSRP of a new 2009 Yaris Hatchback (Model JT923MA), 2010 Corolla (Model BU42EMA), 2010 Matrix (Model KU4EEMA), and 2009 RAV4 (Model ZE33VPA) is $13,620/$15,260/$16,440/$24,295 plus freight and PDE of $1,280/$1,320/$1,320/$1,490. Tax for fuel conservation is $75 for Matrix. ¥0%/0%/0%/0% finance APR equals $379/$424/$457/$675 per month for 36/36/36/36 months. Cost of borrowing is $0/$0/$0/$0 for a total obligation of $13,620/$15,260/$16,440/$24,295. ‡3.9%/3.9% lease APR for 60/48 months on a new 2009 Yaris Hatchback (Model JT923MA) and 2010 Corolla (Model BU42EMA). When you apply the $250/$500 cashback equivalent offer, monthly payment is $135/$155 with a $2,080/$2,060 down payment or trade equivalent, and first monthly payment due at lease inception plus freight and PDE of $1,280/$1,320. Total lease obligation is $10,206/$9,479 plus freight and PDE. Based on a maximum of 120,000/96,000 KMS. Additional KM charge of $.07/$.07 for excess kilometres if applicable. *3.9%/4.9% lease APR for 48/48 months on a new 2010 Matrix (Model KU4EEMA) and 2009 RAV4 (Model ZE33VPA). Monthly payment is $175/$245 with a $2,300/$4,390 down payment or trade equivalent, and first monthly payment due at lease inception plus freight and PDE of $1,320/$1,490. Total lease obligation is $10,720/$16,163 plus freight and PDE. Based on a maximum of 96,000/96,000 KMS. Additional KM charge of $.07/$.10 for excess kilometres if applicable. ✧Complimentary Job Loss Credit Protection is offered by Toyota Credit Canada Inc. (“Toyota Credit” or “TFS”) and available to eligible retail customers who purchase or lease one of the following vehicles through TFS between March 3 and August 31, 2009: new and demonstrator Yaris Hatchback, Corolla, Matrix, and RAV4 models. The program provides up to $10,000 in credit protection to consumers who suffer an unexpected job loss during the term of their lease or financing contract, provide proof that they are collecting unemployment benefits and return their vehicle to their Toyota dealer. Excludes charges for excess wear and tear, excess kilometres, unrepaired damages and similar charges. Program only applies to natural persons, over the age of 18, who suffer Involuntary Unemployment (as defined in the contract) and who meet the other eligibility criteria. Program does not apply to corporations, companies, associations, self-employed people, seasonal employees, employees of TFS or employees under a fixed term contract. Eligible consumers will be required to make regular monthly payments while their claim is evaluated. Further conditions and limitations apply. For complete details, ask your Toyota dealer. †These estimates are based on the Government of Canada's approved criteria and testing methods. The actual fuel consumption of these vehicles may vary. ††Based on Fuel Consumption Guide ratings published by Natural Resources Canada. Refer to the Government of Canada publication EnerGuide Fuel Consumption Guide. To find out more, visit ecoaction.gc.ca/vehicles. All rights are reserved. Dealer may sell/lease for less. Offers valid between July 2, 2009 and July 31, 2009 and are subject to change without notice. Please see your participating Toyota Dealer for full details. ◆Based upon a Reader's Digest Harris Decima January 2009 consumer survey of 1500 Canadians.

Tire breakthrough

Researchers at Oregon State University have found that cellulose made from plant fibres has the potential to be used as a silica substitute in tires, possibly increasing their fuel efficiency and reducing energy costs, Canadian Driver reports. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Andrus on the offence



Toronto Argonauts head coach Bart Andrus

MyDrive

Heather Buchan

metronews.ca/mydrive

A 2009 Nissan Rogue

When Bart Andrus joined the Toronto Argonauts as head coach in January, he arrived in the midst of one of GTA's harshest winters. A California native, who's lived everywhere from Montana to Germany during his 25-plus years coaching football, Andrus was faced with the harsh driving conditions Torontonians have become accustomed to for five months of the year.

While some newcomers find winter driving nerve-wracking, Andrus credits the years he spent living in Montana with preparing him for the driving conditions of Canadian winters. "I've driven in bad weather for quite a while, having spent nine years in Montana," he says.

From his arrival in January until last month, Andrus had been driving a Nissan Altima, but the Argos traded it in for a pewter-coloured Nissan Rogue featuring intuitive all-wheel-drive — something Andrus says should make this coming winter all the easier to get through.

"It's also got regular, automatic transmission or the shift-on-demand, which is nice if you get into a situation where there might be snow and you want to slow down a little bit without using the breaks all the time," says the married father of two college-age children.

Over the course of his career, Andrus has gained a reputation as an offensive innovator and it seems that extends beyond the field. "I grew up on the freeways of Los Angeles, so I'm a little bit of an offensive driver," he says with a laugh. "If you hesitate in L.A., you end up getting honked at or the one-finger salute."

And while Andrus is certainly enjoying his Rogue's many features like eight-speaker satellite radio and a sunroof on his summer commute to the University of Toronto's Mississauga campus where the Argos train, he concedes that he'd love to one day get a Nissan Z convertible in homage to his college years at the University of Montana when he was a quarterback and drove an old 280 Z. "It was one of the saddest days when I traded that in," he says. "One day, I'd like to get another one."

Heather Buchan is a Toronto-based journalist who has worked at several magazines, including Hello! Canada, where she cut her teeth in the world of celebrities.

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87, 89, 91: Demystifying gas octane numbers

JIL MCINTOSH
for Metro Canada

Regular, mid-grade, premium — there's a lot to know when you're pulling up to the pumps.

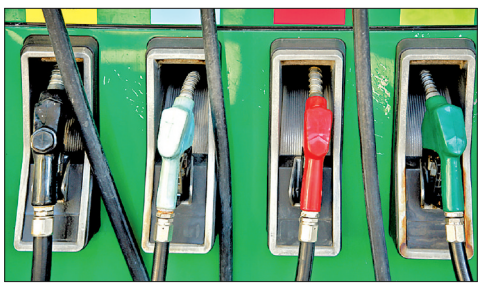
Don't look solely at the price. What you put into your car can help make it run better and more efficiently, and sometimes that can mean spending a bit more to save money in the long run.

First, some background. Engines usually contain anywhere from four to eight cylinders that are fitted with pistons. These pistons move up and down, turning a central shaft; the shaft's spinning eventually turns the vehicle's wheels. It's similar to how your legs power a bicycle.

The energy to move the pistons is provided by gasoline, which is ignited by the spark plug in a precisely-timed sequence. Valves open to let fuel in, the piston compresses the mixture, the spark plug ignites the fuel when the piston is at a precise spot in its travel and, finally, other valves let the exhaust out.

Peak fuel efficiency is achieved when the engine uses as much power as possible from each spray of gasoline, which can depend on the fuel grade.

Gasoline is graded by its octane content. "Octane is the specific name of a molecule, but the word also refers to an ignition rating for gasoline," says David MacMillan, manager of fuels quality for Suncor Energy Products. "There are different grades because auto manufacturers make different engines and some have different octane requirements."



It's important to know which fuel grade your car needs.

The air/fuel mixture is compressed before it's ignited, and the more it's compressed, the more power it can provide. But compression makes heat, which can cause the gasoline to ignite before the spark plug fires, and before the piston is where it's supposed to be. This "pre-ignition" wastes power and can harm the engine.

Octane doesn't mind waiting for the spark plug, which is why higher-octane grades are necessary for high-compression engines, such as those in sports cars.

"Octane is not an additive," MacMillan says. "In a refinery, you produce various streams that have higher- or lower-octane ratings. It's more expensive because when you get into the higher-octane components it's a more complex and, therefore, more costly process."

The numbers on the pump — 87, 89, 91 and sometimes 94 — are obtained by averaging the results of two different quality-control tests. Because pre-ignition is also called engine knock, due to the sound it makes, the rating is sometimes called an "anti-knock index."

So what should you choose? The experts say to consult your owner's manual. If it recommends 87, you can give your wallet a rest. "Premium recommended" means it'll run on regular, but will give maximum power and fuel efficiency with a higher grade, while "premium required" means what it says. Engines can require more octane as they age, so if you notice your performance or mileage slipping, try moving up a grade.

RV website adds news features

Go RVing Canada's website now features several new tools that will enable fans of recreational vehicles to better plan their trips. Visit gorving.ca to check them out. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Generation X1

BMW launching new small SUV

BMW created a new vehicle segment a decade ago when it launched the X5.

That vehicle received critical acclaim at its launch and continues to this day as a market leader with 1.5 million sold worldwide.

The popular X3 followed in 2004 and the X6 spawned a new niche in 2008. Now BMW is poised to introduce the next derivative of the X model line-up with the X1.

The new BMW X1 takes its key styling cues and practicality from the X5 but shrinks it into a more compact and affordable package.

The vehicle's elegant lines and command driving position echo its larger stablemate, while the five-seat configuration and 1,350-litre boot space provide outstanding load-lugging capability.

Power comes from a choice of three diesel engines and, for the first time on a BMW X product, the option to have rear-wheel drive (sDrive) or four-wheel drive (xDrive).

EfficientDynamics plays a part in the BMW X1 story with the introduction of Auto Start-Stop technology on an X product for the first time.

Available on all manual transmission cars, the system improves fuel consumption figures.

The BMW X1 also has the full suite of EfficientDynmamics technologies including Brake Energy Regeneration, optimized aerodynamics, optimum shift indicator and on-demand use of ancillary units to name a few.

Inside, and all the main controls and dashboard displays are angled towards the driver.

A range of storage compartments, trays and large door pockets provide a variety of places to keep personal effects.

An owner that specifies one of the two available satellite navigation systems featuring the latest iDrive display, controller and Favourite Buttons gains a slightly revised interior layout to accommodate the system.

The interior of the BMW X1 can be further enhanced by opting for the new Design package.

BMW is extending its range of small SUVs with the introduction later this year of the BMW X1. BMW Canada recently confirmed that the BMW X1 will go on sale in Canada in year 2011.

This sees Sport seats in Oyster Nevada leather, Anthracite headlining and Fineline Wave wood trim. The Oyster theme continuing to the lower part of the dashboard, all of the centre console and leather piping on the floor mats.

BMW Canada recently confirmed that the BMW X1 will go on sale in Canada in calendar year 2011.

FROM CARGUIDE

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Audi, Suzuki celebrate 100th year

EMMA E FORREST
Metro World News

Audi celebrates its 100th year this month, and it has a lot to celebrate.

It is launching an exciting new model, the A5 Sportback, and some great stats.

In 2008 it delivered a record million cars globally, for the first time, achieved its best-ever revenue figure, and a record profit-before-tax total of 3.177 billion Euros.

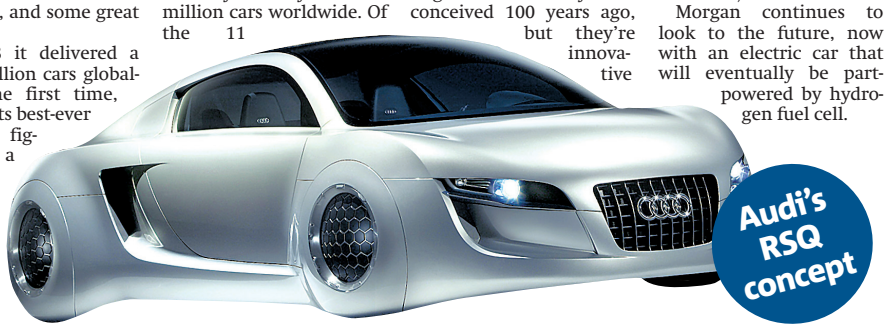
Meanwhile Suzuki blows out the candles on its 100th birthday cake in October. The Japanese company started out creating weaving looms, then motorbikes, followed by its first car, the Suzulight, in 1955.

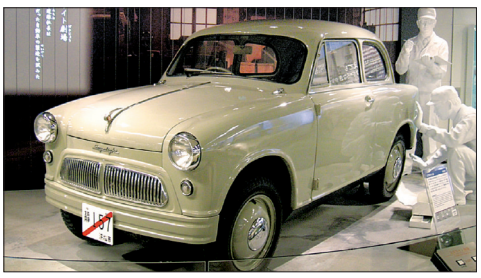
Last year they sold 2.3 million cars worldwide. Of the 11 million cars on the roads of India, more than 7.5 million are Suzukis.

Finally, the world's oldest independent sports car company, Morgan hits 100. Its handbuilt models, including the Morgan 4/4 might look like they were conceived 100 years ago, but they're innovative at heart.

These lovingly-crafted, bespoke cars have always been forward-looking: they are lightweight, low-emissions, long-lasting and made with renewable materials (including English ash wood).

Morgan continues to look to the future, now with an electric car that will eventually be part-powered by hydrogen fuel cell.





The Suzulight, Suzuki's first car built in 1955.

Morgan's space age Aero 8.

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Travel

Afghanistan: Hidden Treasures

A touring collection of ancient Afghan artifacts courageously saved during the country's civil war will make its only Canadian stop in Ottawa this fall. Afghanistan: Hidden Treasures will run at the Canadian Museum of Civilization from Oct. 23 to March 28, 2010. At left, an ornament in the form of a ram made from gold and dated between 1st century B.C. and 1st century A.D. The rings beneath the ram's hooves allowed this ornament to be attached to the high headdress often seen among nomads. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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A taste of London's museums

The city's gallery fare is now decidedly less institutional

EMMA E. FORREST
Metro World News

Left, the newly refurbished Portrait Restaurant at the top of the National Portrait Gallery. Right, the Upper Deck at the London Transport Museum.

Traditionally, having a bite to eat in a London museum never meant anything more sophisticated than an expensive cheese sandwich or a wedge of sponge cake.

However, the restaurants in the city's cultural storehouses are now becoming dining destinations in themselves, some with tremendous views of city landmarks.

The newly-refurbished Portrait Restaurant, at the top of the National Portrait Gallery on Trafalgar Square, has amazing views over the city, taking in Nelson's column, the London Eye, the Houses of Parliament and Big Ben. It's a romantic place for a dinner date, with lights twinkling from London's most famous sights.

The food is pretty impressive too, with a fine dining menu of dishes that use local, seasonal and organic ingredients. Starters include Monmouthshire air-dried ham with a fried duck egg; mains including plaice with brown shrimp and lemon and horseradish butter.

During the daytime you can feast on a traditional afternoon tea with sandwiches, hom made cakes, biscuits and scones with jam and clotted cream (from about $30 for two courses, npg.org.uk/live/portrest).

More details

- npg.org.uk/live/portrest
- thenationaldiningrooms.co.uk
- blueprintcafe.co.uk
- wallacecollection.org
- ltmuseum.co.uk

The neighbouring National Gallery is home to 2,300 of the most famous works of Western European art including Van Gogh's Sunflowers — as well as a great restaurant, the National Dining rooms.

This is a relaxed but sophisticated dining experience, with fun twists on typical British dishes using local, seasonal ingredients.

There's a choice of fine dining or the brasserie-style menu in the Bakery with comfort food including beef and ale stew, shepherd's pie, quiches, hot pies, and homemade cakes.

Exotic dishes on the à la carte menu include crab, pea and samphire salad; Newlyn lemon sole with mussels, leeks, sorrel and wild nettles; and Eton mess or Elderflower posset for desert.

Each month, the chef celebrates a different British county, bringing you fresh produce and classic modern dishes from the region. (from $9, thenationaldiningrooms.co.uk).

For views of a different London icon, dine at the Blueprint Café, the restaurant at the Design Museum where you can watch boats cruise down the Thames and under the majestic Tower Bridge. Follow your visit to an exhibition at the museum about a key design movement, architect or fashion designer with a dinner that celebrates the best of British dining.

You know it's an exciting dining experience when there are ingredients on the menu that are so recherché that you won't recognize them — the chef here is inspired by historic English and Scottish dishes.

There are also plenty of more straightforward options, from chicken and rabbit pie to grilled loin of Middle White pork, all to be enjoyed as you watch the Docklands and the City of London using the binoculars that you'll find on your dining table (from about $27 for two courses, blueprintcafe.co.uk).

Another romantic option the restaurant at the Wallace Collection is a good bet.

The museum based in a historic London town house has a wonderful collection of French 18th century Old Masters, furniture and porcelain featuring cherubs and elegant ladies in billowing satin frocks.

Read more on page 25 ››

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More magic in Orlando
Next year, Universal Orlando's Islands of Adventure in Orlando, Fla., is planning to open a Harry Potter theme park called The Wizarding World of Harry Potter. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PAUL IRISH/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

PAUL IRISH/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Left, the Neustadt Springs Brewery in Neustadt, Ont., a town of 500 about three hours northwest of Toronto. Right, brewery co-owner Val Stimpson holds a tray of Neustadt Springs offerings.

Booming brewery tourism

Local microbrewers find visitor numbers are frothing over

SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Phil Beauchesne, middle, gives a tour of Beau's All Natural Brewing Company in Vankleek Hill, Ont.

Step inside the Neustadt Springs Brewery in Neustadt, Ont., and you can't help but notice the large world map Val Stimpson has hung from the wall.

Nor can you miss the brightly coloured pins marking the hometowns of the visitors who, for the past 12 years, have graced the 150-year-old building with their presence.

"We've had some people from Latvia. We've had people from Outer Mongolia," says Stimpson, the brewery's co-owner.

"It never fails to amaze me who walks through my doors ... I wish they'd all buy beer, but they don't!"

Since Stimpson opened Neustadt Springs in 1997 with her husband Andy, some 50,000 thirsty, curious travellers have made the pilgrimage to the small town of 500 about three hours northwest of Toronto.

But among small brewers, the Stimpsons' experience isn't that unique. According to the Ontario Craft Brewers, which represents most of the province's small and mid-sized beer makers, the number of tourists who have paid visits to microbreweries over the past four years has climbed steadily.

Theories behind that growth include the recession, which has cut into travel budgets and forced some vacationers to stay closer to home. Then, there's the popularity of the 100 Mile Diet and the trend toward eating and buying locally.

The OCB also spends about $900,000 per year on marketing, which includes promoting craft beers at events like Toronto's upcoming Festival of Beer, and publishing brochures detailing the ideal microbrewery day trips for people across Ontario.

"I think people want to support the little guys," says Lisa Dunbar, the OCB's marketing director. "They want to support people that are local to them, absolutely."

When Neustadt Springs opened, there were only about "five or six" microbreweries in Ontario, says Stimpson. Major labels like Molson and Labatt dominated the scene, and the whole idea of going out of one's way for uniquely brewed beer, she says, was "very low on the radar."

Today, the OCB represents 25 microbreweries. Small brewers employ more than one-fifth of the people who work in Ontario's brewing industry. They brew more than 150 stouts, ales, pilsners and lagers, and have carved out a five-per-cent share of the province's beer market.

They've also made inroads into the hallowed halls of Queen's Park: in 2008, Speaker Steve Peters hosted a tasting with his fellow MPPs to choose the official beers of the Ontario legislature. And the winner of the coveted "Speaker's Selection" category? Neustadt Springs.

Read more on page 21 ››

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Cheesemakers Festival

If you're a fiend for cheese, head to Vermont for the state's first Cheesemakers Festival, scheduled for Aug. 23. The festival will feature over 100 cheeses for sampling, 50 different cheesemakers, tasting seminars and more. Details at vtcheesefest.com. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

A view of the bottling line at the Beau's All Natural Brewing Company in Vankleek Hill, Ont.

>> Continued from page 20

"We feel special over here," says Stimpson, who worked in England's brewing industry before moving to Canada. "It's just fantastic the way they put (microbreweries) up on a pedestal, when we're really just ordinary guys trying to earn a few bucks."

Another small-town operation, Beau's All Natural Brewing Company, has seen its beer production spike eightfold since it opened in Vankleek Hill, Ont., in 2006.

Each week, says co-founder Steve Beauchesne, the brewery draws some 500 tourists to the small town of about 2,000, located an hour's drive east of Ottawa.

"I think we're kind of the reason they're coming to town," says Beauchesne, who runs Beau's with most of his extended family.

"I think we're bringing a lot of people to (Vankleek Hill), which we're quite proud of."

The decision to market the brewery as a tourist destination was "almost an afterthought," Beauchesne says. Today, visitors get a full tour that includes the chance to sample their beers early in, during and after the fermentation process.

There's also a live band once a month, he says, and plans are afoot to install a new patio and eventually open a fully functioning brew pub.

More details

- Neustadt Springs Brewery: neustadtsprings.com
- Beau's All Natural Brewing Company: beaus.ca
- Ontario Craft Brewers: ontariocraftbrewers.com
- Toronto Festival of Beer: beerfestival.ca

"We've done tours for people who know absolutely nothing about beer, and we've done tours for avid home brewers," says Beauchesne. "They all walk away raving about how much they've learned — but it's not boring learning, it's fun learning."

While the OCB doesn't keep hard statistics on the number of people who make special trips to microbreweries, Dunbar says their members are reporting that visits have definitely gone up.

Ultimately, there's a new generation of "savvy" beer drinkers out there who are looking for more than just a cold beer to quaff on a hot day, says Dunbar.

"They want to hear about food matching tips. They love the opportunity to meet the brewmaster," she says. "And that's something large breweries don't always provide beer drinkers access to." THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Meet Billy the Kid
The New Mexico Tourism Department has launched a website dedicated to Billy the Kid, newmexico.org/billythekid, with links to maps and tours that retrace the steps of the famous young outlaw and the sheriff credited with shooting him. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Remembering the Berlin Wall

Twenty years since the fall of the Wall, there's little trace of it left

RUBEN EG
Metro World News

Berlin, separated by a wall, was for years the symbol of a divided world. Nowadays, it's more likely to be thought of as the hippest party city in Europe.

Twenty years after the fall of the Berlin wall, what is left of the former East and West Berlin? Take a bike ride through the city and you'll find a surprising number of hidden memories of an almost-forgotten era.

On Nov. 9, 1989, inhabitants of the East German Prenzlauer Berg neighbourhood swarmed together at the border crossing in the Bornholmer Strasse to listen to the declaration by government spokesman Günter Schabowski — broadcast live on the West-German television — in which he said that they would be permitted to travel freely through the Federal Republic of Germany.

A journalist asked Schabowski when the freedom of travel would come into effect. "I think, from this moment on," the official sputtered.

Residents of the dilapidated Prenzlauer Berg rushed immediately to the bridge in the Bornholmer Strasse, and after 48 years, the first hole was smashed through the Berlin wall. The Eastern bloc fell apart like a house of cards.

"But these days, at this historic location, there seems to be very little trace of the events that kickstarted the fall of the Wall and the communist regime."

But these days, at this historic location, there seems to be very little trace of the events that kickstarted the fall of the Wall and the communist regime.

Still, there is some evidence of the Wall, and it can be best discovered by taking a cycling tour. Naturally, the Prenzlauer Berg in the former East Berlin is the ultimate starting point. This 19th century, working class neighbourhood fell into disrepair during the communist DDR (Deutsche Demokratische Republik)-era, and it became a bohemian place.

Cycling over the neighbourhood's cobblestones, that atmosphere still prevails, as evidenced by the many trendy bars, restaurants, galleries and little shops.

There is a small piece of the wall still standing in the Bornholmer Strasse, and in the nearby car park you can see white stripes on the asphalt that mark the former checkpoint for vehicles.

"Only the paint survived the DDR," grins our guide. Hidden in the bushes are two dismantled electric facilities: 20 years ago, the safety net underneath the wall where it crossed over the bridge in the Bornholmer Strasse was still charged.

Now it's just one of the bizarre objects that were completely forgotten in the hurry to get rid of the cursed wall.

From the bridge, we cycle along the rails in the direction of the Bernauer Strasse, the street where the 19-year-old border guard Hans Conrad Schumann escaped to the West on Aug. 15, 1961, by jumping over the barbed wire as the wall was being built.

Read more on page 23 »

A view of Berlin's Alexanderplatz.

Cyclists pass by the Bernauersstrasse Museum.

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Looking over a preserved section of the former no-man's-land.

>> Continued from page 22

The moment was caught on camera and seen the world over.

The last hundred metres of the wall remain in Bernauer Strasse, where you'll also find the Gedenkstätte Berliner Mauer, the Berlin Wall Foundation. It gives insight into the original Wall and its heavy security. Across the street is a museum with an observation tower that can be visited for free, with a view over the former no-man's-land and the rest of the city. Another must-visit is the museum at the former border crossing point for foreigners and diplomats, Checkpoint Charlie, which tells the storyof the many ways in which people tried to escape into the West.

Besides the easier-to-find Wall-related sights — including the church in the Bernauer Strasse that was blown up in 1985 by the DDR — there is still some shocking hidden history.

You can still see the bullet holes from fighting between the Red Army and the Nazis at the end of the Second World War in a wall that separates Garten Strasse from the tracks that run to the Nordbahnhof station. The words Demokratischer Sektor, End and Begin have been chalked in a passageway that used to lead from East to West and which was closed off when the Berlin Wall was erected.

Viewing those words, you'll find that for a moment you're transported back to a time that feels long-gone, though it hasn't been gone for very long at all.

More details

- berlinonbike.de

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Tourism from U.S. near all-time low

The Tourism Industry Association of Canada says the number of U.S. tourists visiting Canada is at a 37-year low and declining, mainly due to the recession, but stricter new U.S. passport rules are also to blame. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rebirth of a New Orleans landmark

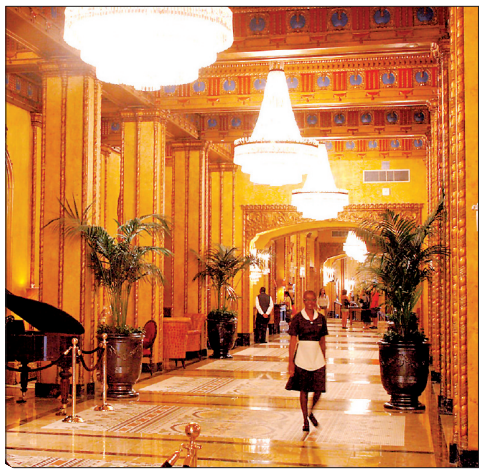
Roosevelt Hotel reopens four years after Hurricane Katrina

The massive lobby, with its ornate trim, glittering Italian crystal chandeliers and mosaic floors, looks much as it did when Louisiana's Kingfish, Gov. Huey P. Long, last strolled through.

Some say a box full of kickbacks and shakedown money was tucked under his arm as he made his way to his regular suite in the 1930s.

The Roosevelt Hotel has finally reopened in downtown New Orleans four years after Hurricane Katrina. Thanks to a $145-million US renovation, it's making an opulent return to its heyday, when the likes of Long, a parade of Hollywood stars and the country's movers and shakers held court there.

Bartender Timothy Worall prepares a Sazerac cocktail at the Sazerac Bar in The Roosevelt Hotel in New Orleans. Thanks to a $145-million US renovation, the hotel is making a return to its heydey.



JUDI BOTTON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Lobby attendant Hazel Navarre strolls through the lobby of The Roosevelt Hotel in New Orleans.

"The hotel was built in 1893, but the grandest period was from the 1920s and '30s," said general manager Tod Chambers. "We wanted to restore it to that era."

The Roosevelt's renaissance is also a milestone in the city's recovery from the August 2005 storm. Now only one major hotel, the Hyatt, remains shuttered, along with an adjacent shopping centre attached to the Louisiana Superdome.

The hurricane flooded 80 per cent of New Orleans, crippling its vital tourist industry, but the French Quarter suffered minimal damage, and many hotels, restaurants and attractions, like the Audubon Zoo and Aquarium, reopened within months. Only a few major tourist sites remain closed, including the heavily damaged Six Flags amusement park.

But Katrina left three metres of water in the Roosevelt's basement, destroying mechanical equipment, while wind-driven rain inundated most guest floors. As other hotels returned, the Roosevelt, owned by the Fairmont hotel chain, remained boarded up. Then in August 2007, the Roosevelt was bought by the Hilton Hotel Corp. for $19 million, and added to the company's upscale Waldorf-Astoria portfolio.

Hilton decided to reopen the property as a 504-room, 135-suite luxury hotel under the Roosevelt name. The reopening of the Roosevelt gives New Orleans about 34,000 hotel rooms, still shy of the 39,500 in use before Katrina struck, but plenty to serve major conventions and sporting events, said Mary Beth Romig, spokeswoman for the New Orleans Metropolitan Convention and Visitors Bureau.

As important, Romig said, is the return of the iconic Blue Room — Louis Armstrong, Cab Calloway, Rosemary Clooney, Marlene Dietrich and Sonny and Cher all performed there. The Blue Room, which reopens in late July with a concert by jazz clarinetist Pete Fountain, and the Sazerac Bar, have been Roosevelt landmarks for decades.

And in the Sazerac Bar, the Art Deco murals by artist Paul Ninas are again on display. Ninas, a pioneer modernist, moved to New Orleans in 1932 and painted the murals soon after.

"One of the great delights of New Orleans is to get a Sazerac cocktail, which was invented in New Orleans, and gaze at those paintings," said William Fagaly, curator of African art at the New Orleans Museum of Art. "Everybody in New Orleans is looking forward to doing that again."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Good to know

- Roosevelt Hotel, 123 Baronne St., New Orleans; therooseveltneworleans.com, 504-648-1200 or 1-800-WALDORF.
- Rooms start at US$139-$449 a night; suites, US$550-$4,000 a night.
- Sazerac Bar: 11 a.m.-2 a.m. The Blue Room is used for special events, weddings, parties, and occasional entertainment acts. It reopens July 31 with clarinetists Pete Fountain and Tim Laughlin.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Below, signage at the Roosevelt Hotel in New Orleans.

JUDI BOTTON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Well-curated menus at London's museums

>> Continued from page 18

You'll find the brasserie-style restaurant in the grand, glass-covered courtyard at the heart of the building, where you can have a very affordable salad or terrine for lunch, or splash out on oysters and caviar (from $12, wallace collection.org

And if you're looking for something more informal, visit the Upper Deck at London Transport Museum in Covent Garden.

After learning how the London Underground was used as a bomb shelter during the Second World War, you can snack on high-quality, typically British bites for lunch including cheese on toast, fish-finger sandwiches with organic ketchup or Cumberland sausage sandwiches, followed by brownies or treacle tart or an Underground-themed smoothie.

Decide to go for dinner in the evening after a hard day of cultural appreciation and you'll be able to chill out on the benches upholstered in a "moquette" fabric design based on the pattern used on the Northern line in the 1930s. Wash down your dinner with an underground-inspired cocktail including the Routemaster, Anorak or Metropolitan Mixture. (from $5.50, ltmuseum.co.uk).

At the Blueprint Café, the restaurant at London's Design Museum, you can watch boats cruise down the Thames and under the majestic Tower Bridge.

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Frankfurt	Travel Sep 16 - Oct 1/ts	$199 + taxes & fees $326
Hamburg	Travel Sep 9 - Sep 24/ts	$199 + taxes & fees $298
Las Vegas	Travel Oct 12 - Oct 16/wg	$199 + taxes & fees $223
London	Travel Sep 6 - Sep 17/ts	$269 + taxes & fees $387
Paris	Travel Sep 14 - Sep 24/ts	$295 + taxes & fees $347
Turks & Caicos	Travel Nov 25 - Dec 2/ws	$358 + taxes & fees $108
Rome	Travel Sep 4 - Sep 25/ts	$449 + taxes & fees $305
Buenos Aires	Travel Oct 13 - Oct 28/ac	$499 + taxes & fees $222
Auckland	Travel Sep 16 - Sep 30/nz	$1199 + taxes & fees $370

Holidays

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INCLUDES roundtrip airfare and 4 nights 3-star accom on the Las Vegas Strip. Departs Oct 12/ggv/wg.

Orlando Family Special $229*
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INCLUDES roundtrip airfare, car rental and 7 nights 3.5-star accom located minutes from *Walt Disney World* Resort. Departs Aug 13/nol/c6.

New York 4-Star $399
Wyndham Garden Hotel Midtown + taxes & fees $116
INCLUDES roundtrip airfare and 2 nights 4-star accom located in midtown Manhattan steps away from Broadway. Depart Aug 7/ggv/aa.

Hawai'i 7 Nights $889
Ohana Waikiki West + taxes & fees $145
INCLUDES roundtrip airfare and 7 nights 3-star accom in Waikiki. Departs Oct 14/wsv/ws.

Cruise Holiday

Western Caribbean $584
Freedom of the Seas + taxes & fees $76
INCLUDES 7-day Royal Caribbean cruise, onboard meals & entertainment. Sail roundtrip from Port Canaveral and visit Labadee (Bahamas), Ocho Rios, Grand Cayman and Cozumel. Port charges included. Sails Sep 27.

Rail Holiday

ITALY FLY & RAIL
$699
Eurail Italy Pass + taxes & fees $302
INCLUDES roundtrip to Rome airfare and 4-day rail pass to explore Italy at your own pace. Travel Sep 4 - 25/ggv/ts.

Europe Holidays

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London 7 Nights $827
Royal National + taxes & fees $387
INCLUDES roundtrip airfare, transfers and 7 nights 3-star central accom with breakfast. Departs Aug 26/vat/ts. BONUS Essential London tour included.

Paris 6 Nights $994
Hotel Cervantes Paris + taxes & fees $339
INCLUDES roundtrip airfare and 6 nights 3-star central accom with breakfast. Departs Aug 24/acv/ac.

All-inclusive Holidays

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INCLUDES roundtrip airfare, transfers and 7 nights 4-star all-inclusive accom in Santa Lucia. Departs Sep 4/nol/ts.

Puerto Plata 4.5-Star $448
Grand Oasis Marien + taxes & fees $321
INCLUDES roundtrip airfare, transfers and 7 nights 4.5-star all-inclusive accom. Departs Sep 3/vat/ts.

Cayo Coco 4-Star $477
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Hiking in Maine
The August issue of Martha Stewart Living magazine offers recommendations for places to go hiking in Maine. The hikes range from strolling around scenic Monhegan Island to trekking up Mount Katahdin, where the Appalachian Trail terminates. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Child's kitchen at Smithsonian gets new items

WASHINGTON If the forthcoming movie Julie & Julia starring Meryl Streep and Amy Adams has you curious about the real Julia Child, head to Washington.

There you can see the famous chef's actual kitchen at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History.

The display, called Bon Appetit, first opened in 2002 but is receiving some new items this summer, including memorabilia from the movie and Child's copper pot collection, which was originally loaned to a museum in California.

The four-by-six-metre kitchen — small by the standards of many modern American homes — includes her cabinets, counters, cookbooks, Garland commercial range, and hundreds of well-worn utensils and gadgets.

The kitchen includes a variety of charmingly ordinary items, from refrigerator magnets to a dime-store dish drainer, along with Child's knife collection and pots and pans.

Child, author of the influential cookbook Mastering the Art of French Cooking, tested recipes in the kitchen and filmed some of her TV shows there. She donated the kitchen and its contents from her Cambridge, Mass., home when she moved back to her native California. She died in 2004.

For more information, visit http://americanhistory.si.edu/kitchen.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Banff's brew with a view

DRINKS Thirsty travellers looking for a "brew with a view" might want to consider the terrace at the Juniper Hotel and Bistro in Banff National Park.

The hotel, located at the base of Mount Norquay, boasts that the terrace is a destination in its own right, with panoramic views of Banff.

It's among several scenic drinking spots suggested by Travel Alberta, the province's official tourism marketing agency.

In Canmore, the Iron Goat Pub & Grill provides spectacular views of the trio of peaks known as the Three Sisters, to accompany its summer menu that includes lobster crab cakes and pesto chicken linguine.

Smuggler's Inn, on the waterfront in Sylvan Lake, offers excellent sunset views.

Rochester exhibit celebrates Barbie

DISCOUNT The Strong National Museum of Play in downtown Rochester is offering Canadians $1 off the price of admission, says the city's tourism marketing agency.

The museum is home to the National Toy Hall of Fame and the National Center for the History of Electronic Games. It claims to have the world's largest collection of toys, dolls, games and other items that celebrate play.

Its current exhibit 50 years of America's Favorite Doll, Barbie includes nearly 500 examples of Barbie and her friends.

Canadians save a buck off the regular admission.

Newfoundland dinner theatre

COMEDY The Baccalieu Players, a group of volunteers dedicated to portraying Newfoundland's links with the sea, are performing a comic dinner theatre production this summer called A Royal Shag-up.

The show starts outdoors, on the lawn of the Hawthorne Cottage national historic site in Brigus, a community in Conception Bay 80 kilometres west of St. John's.

After a ceremony involving a visit from the Queen, the participants move inside for a "royal banquet" and the rest of the plot.

The production usually sells out by mid-week. Reservations are required (call 709-528-4044).

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Gardener still Desperate
Jesse Metcalfe is returning to Wisteria Lane — he's reportedly signed up to reprise his role as hunky gardener John Rowland on hit TV show Desperate Housewives. **FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK**

Entertainment

Splitting up
Just two months after hinting they might be getting married, Kim Kardashian and football player Reggie Bush have called it quits, her rep confirms to People magazine. **METRO WORLD NEWS**

EDITOR: DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

History of violence

New film brings Northern Ireland conflict to the big screen

CHRIS ALEXANDER
for Metro Canada

As a new film about the history of violence in Northern Ireland is about to hit theatres across Canada, tension and riots in the region — The Independent has called it the worse violence in a decade — are again making headlines.

Last week, rioters in north Belfast clashed with police in the newest wave of violence, which comes as the film Fifty Dead Men Walking is set to open across Canada.

The volatile life of Irish born Martin McGartland is and epic tale of intrigue that begs for big screen treatment.

McGartland was barely out of his teens when he fell in with the IRA and, after witnessing their less than kind methods firsthand, decided instead to become an informer for British intelligence, immersing himself in a dangerous and terrifying double existence that he barely lived to tell about.

But tell he did, and McGartland's 1997 autobiography Fifty Dead Men Walking has now been turned into a film, written and directed by Canadian filmmaker Kari Skogland (The Stone Angel).

The film stars 21's Jim Sturgess as McGartland and Grindhouse's Rose McGowan as his long suffering — and oblivious — girlfriend. They're two actors who have been cast against type with surprising results.

Jim Sturgess plays Martin McGartland in Fifty Dead Men Walking, in theatres this week.

Movie feature

"That's why I wanted to do it," says Skogland of her off kilter choices. "I think Jim brings that boyish intensity that I wanted Martin to have for this period in his life and Rose was just fantastic."

Fifty Dead Men Walking begins screening across Canada on Friday.

Since his cover was blown, the real McGartland has been living in hiding from the IRA since the early '90s, even surviving a recent gunfire attack at his home that many — including Martin — believe was an assassination attempt.

"He will always be in danger," says the filmmaker, "he'll never be able to emerge. I actually never even met him, we had to only have a conversation on the phone because of how perilous the situation is."

And although McGartland's story commands a hot bed of controversy, Skogland is adamant that her film isn't only grounded in politics.

"I used the book as a template to tell a story of humanity, of an average kid caught in an extraordinary situation."

Northern conflict

Other films about the conflict in Northern Ireland:
- In The Name of the Father
- Bloody Sunday
- Ryan's Daughter

Protests disrupt U2 tour

MUSIC Dubliners angry over the around-the-clock dismantling of U2's monumental concert stage mounted street protests yesterday, snarling the band's plans for the next stages of their European tour.

Residents around Croke Park stadium said their aim was to embarrass Dublin City Council and the Gaelic Athletic Association — which authorized the all-night noise. U2 managers said the protests meant more than 50 trucks carrying much of the band's 390-tonne stage, TV screens and equipment missed their intended morning ferry. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

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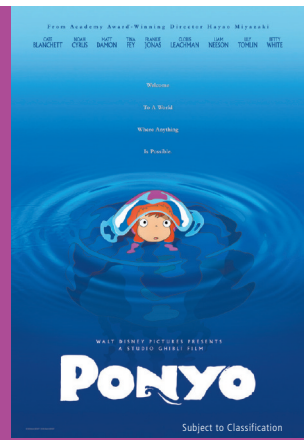

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Maguire family on TV?

Tobey Maguire's mother and younger brother are reportedly in talks to star in a reality TV series called Growing Up Maguire, according to Page Six. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Jackson's doctor's office searched

Police and federal drug agents searched the sprawling Las Vegas home and medical office of Michael Jackson's personal doctor yesterday, seeking documents as part of a manslaughter investigation into the singer's death.

Los Angeles police and Drug Enforcement Administration agents entered Dr. Conrad Murray's home in a gated community while others across town searched Murray's medical offices, Global Cardiovascular Associates Inc.

Michael Flanagan, assistant special agent in charge of the Las Vegas DEA office, said the warrants were sealed and he couldn't say what documents agents were seeking. He said he expected the search would last five hours.

It was the second time in less than a week that investigators targeted Murray's property. Last week in Houston authorities searched his clinic and storage. Investigators are working under the theory that Murray gave Jackson the powerful anesthetic Propofol to help him go to sleep, and the drug caused his heart to stop, a law enforcement official said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Also yesterday

- The legal team for Michael Jackson's mother has asked a judge for the power to press the special administrators of her son's estate for more information. Lawyers for Katherine Jackson requested the authority to subpoena an attorney and former music executive.

In brief

FILM FEST A comedy from the Coen brothers, the directorial debut of Drew Barrymore, and a new treatise from documentarian Michael Moore are among a slate of movies added to the Toronto International Film Festival. Organizers say they've booked Joel and Ethan Coen's black comedy, A Serious Man and Barrymore's rowdy comedy Whip It.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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A champion chimp?
The purported autobiography of a movie-star chimpanzee is among the contenders for Britain's most prestigious literary award. Me Cheeta is one of 13 novels on the Booker Prize longlist. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Nelly's new spanish soul

Nelly Furtado admits that writing her new, all-Spanish album, Mi Plan, wasn't in her plans at all after finishing a hectic tour to promote her last chart-topping record.

"I was physically tired and I wasn't feeling inspired. It was almost as if I lost my pop inspiration to write in English," Furtado said. "I just needed a new outlet, and I found it by writing in Spanish."

The 30-year-old singer told The Associated Press at a Miami recording studio that her fourth full-length album, which is set for release Sept. 15 on her own Nelstar Music label, more intimately explores the passion that fuels relationships.

"I think this album has some of my first true love songs ever. They're not complicated. They're not over-intellectualized, and I found it liberating to be able to sing in the Latin language and to express myself from my Latin soul," said Furtado, the Canadian-born daughter of Portuguese immigrants.

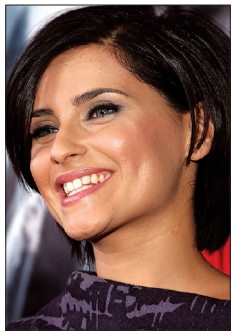
The Grammy-Award winner, who vaulted up the pop charts with such indelible tracks as I'm Like a Bird in 2000 and Promiscuous in 2006, is set to deliver a new fleet of mostly uptempo, melodic tunes on Mi Plan.

Manos Al Aire and Mas have already hit the airwaves, and two more songs are expected to be available on iTunes in the coming weeks leading up to the album's release.

The 11 songs on the album include collaborations with Mexican singers Alejandro Fernandez and Julieta Venegas, Spanish singer Concha Buika, Latin hip-hop singer La Mala Rodriguez and Dominican singer Juan Luis Guerra.

And classical singer Josh Groban's cameo on Silencio was a "huge blessing," Furtado said.

"I thought it was important to sort of showcase on this album an artist that people know more for their English recordings," she said. "So, I thought by working with Josh would actually elevate my point that language isn't a barrier when it comes to music." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS


Nelly Furtado

Mirvish spices up current season

THEATRE Mirvish Productions in Toronto is shaking up its current season, adding several new shows — including the Broadway hit Legally Blonde the Musical — and postponing Priscilla Queen of the Desert — the Musical. The theatre company says Priscilla, which was to have its North American premiere next spring after a smash showing in London, is being pushed back to the 2010-11 season because of logistics. THE CANADIAN PRESS

In brief

SETTLEMENT Hulk Hogan and his wife have finally reached a settlement in their divorce case. The 55-year-old celebrity wrestler — whose real name is Terry Bollea — said in court yesterday morning that he and his wife, Linda, have agreed to the terms of the split. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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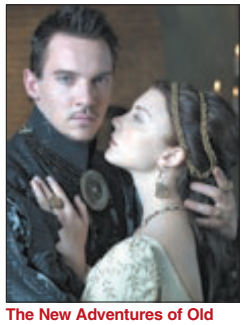
TO	Vu	SC	C		7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime 7/29/09	265	353	2	TVO	Life in Cold Blood		The Best of The Agenda		Marking Time		Carny The life of a carny.		Best-Agenda
	211	331	3	GTV	ET Canada	Entertainment	Wipeout (HDTV)		(9:02) In Plain Sight		The Philanthropist (N)		News
	215	343	4	OMN1	Two/Half Men	The Simpsons	News (N)		Vivere Il	News (N)	The Simpsons	King of the Hill	Metropia
	210	302	6	CBC	Coronation St.	Jeopardy!	Dragon's Den (HDTV)		The Tudors (DVS)		CBC News: The National		The Hour
	214	344	7	CITY	Law & Order: SVU		Goode Family	Surviving Sub.	Japanese Game Show		Murdoch Mysteries (HDTV)		News
	212	313	8	CTV	Corner Gas	Hollywood	So You Think You Can Dance Top six. (N)				CSI: NY (HDTV)		News
	218	345	11	E!	The Insider (N)	E! News	Psych		D. Richards	Kendra	Kardashians	Candy Girls	News/Eleven
	137	763	13	TFO	Panorama été	Esprit	Tout simple	Villages	*Oublier Cheyenne* (2005, Drame sentimental)			Folie-aventure	Esprit
	-	-	14	-	Raymond	According-Jim	Omni News: S. Asian Edition		Omni News: Cantonese Edition		Two/Half Men	King	Cold Case
	213	326	15	SUN	Stargate SG-1		*Suspicious River* ★★ (2000, Drama) Molly Parker.				To Serve and Protect		Becker
	-	387	16	CBS	Inside Edition	Hollywood	Old Christine	Gary Unmarr	Criminal Minds (HDTV)		CSI: NY (HDTV)		News 4 at 11
	-	385	17	NBC	The Insider (N)	Entertainment	America's Got Talent		America's Got Talent (N)		The Philanthropist (N)		News
	-	386	18	ABC	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy!	Wipeout (HDTV)		Japanese Game Show		Primetime: Crime		News
	219	346	20	ACH-B	The Road to Avonlea		Old Christine	Gary Unmarr	America's Got Talent (N)		Monk Submarine death.		News (N)
	-	-	28	FOX	Judge Judy	Two/Half Men	So You Think You Can Dance Top six. (N)				Seinfeld	Two/Half Men	The Simpsons
	-	388	61	PBS	News-Lehrer	Wait for God	Time Team America (N)		Ascent of Money (DVS)		Wide Angle (HDTV) (N)		Business Rpt.
	297	652	330	WPX	Two/Half Men	Family Guy	America's Next Top Model		America's Next Top Model		PIX News at Ten Tong.		Two/Half Men
	296	654	331	SBK	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy!	Dr. Phil		WBZ News (N)	What's-Store	Frasier	Frasier	Punk'd
	298	653	332	TLA	Jamie Foxx	Wayans Bros.	My Wife-Kids	According-Jim	Friends	KTLA News	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Next Model
news	502	390	26	NW	CBC News	Fortune	The Hour Tim Robbins.		CBC News: The National		Geologic Journey		National
	500	500	33	CNN	Lou Dobbs Tonight		Campbell Brown (N)		Larry King Live (N)		Anderson Cooper 360 (HDTV)		
	509	504	79	CNB	Kudlow Report		CNBC Reports		Marijuana Inc.: Pot Industry		Ultimate Fighting: Fistful		Mad Money
sports	405	417	22	net	MLB Baseball	Sportsnet Con.	UFC Top 100 Fights		Best Damn Sports Show		Sportsnet Connected		Sportsnet Con.
	400	400	30	TSN	Interruption	2008 World Series of Poker Main event, from Las Vegas.				MLS Soccer All Star Game -- Everton vs. MLS All-Stars.			
family	411	457	58	OLN	Ghost Hunters		Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Survivorman		Ghost Hunters		Bounty Hunter
	417	406	81	SC	Pimp My Ride	Pass Time	Amer. Thunder	Pinks Outtakes	Pass Time (N)	Pass Time (N)	Wrecked	Wrecked	Pimp My Ride
	551	542	25	YTV	In Real Life "Dirty Jobs"		Malcolm-Mid.	Futurama	Survive This	Adrenaline Proj	Falcon Beach		Mystery Hnt.
	554	544	45	TEL	Jimmy Two	Total Drama	6TEEN	6TEEN "2-4-1"	Futurama	American Dad	Robot Chicken	Father of Pride	Moral Orel
	556	540	51	FAM	Wizards-Place	Han. Montana	Zack & Cody	Latest Buzz	Wizards-Place	Life Derek	Ned's School	Cory in House	Zack & Cody
cable variety	602	567	27	W	Style by Jury	Friends	Grocery Bag	Grocery Bag	Love It or List It		*Don't Cry Now* (2007, Drama) Jason Priestley.		
	570	580	29	MM	Making Band	TBA	Degrassi: TNG	Instant Star	Making His Band			Technical Diff.	One Tree Hill
	615	520	31	A&E	CSI: Miami "Addiction"		Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Dog the Bounty Hunter		Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Tattoo High.
	700	800	35	TLN	Centrovetrine	Sky TG 24	Elisa di Rivombosa		Elisa di Rivombosa		Raymond	Raymond	George Lopez
	571	581	36	MMM	The Daily Fix		Ranked!		Celebrity Rehab With Dr. Drew		Entourage	Gene Simmons	The Daily Fix
	575	583	38	CMT	Project Dad	Project Dad	Home Improve.	Home Improve.	Reba	Reba	Hope & Faith	Hope & Faith	Karaoke Star
	616	521	39	SHO	The Outer Limits		The Guard (HDTV)		*Abducted*				House
	620	523	40	BVO	The Achievers	Bravo!Videos	Arts & Minds	O'Reagan File	Wingfield	Wingfield	On Screen		Law & Order
	601	562	41	SLC	Skin Deep	Til Debt-Part	End of Leash	End of Leash	End of Leash	End of Leash	End of Leash	End of Leash	ET Canada
	522	506	43	HIS	NCIS "Blowback"		Cities of the Underworld		Ice Road Truckers		NCIS "Blowback"		Nuclear Sharks
	625	548	44	COM	Air Farce	22 Minutes	22 Minutes	Corner Gas	The Simpsons	South Park	Jon Dore Show	Tosh.0	Daily Show
	600	564	46	H&G	House Hunters	Property Virgin	Big City Broker	The Stagers	Property Virgin	Hid Potential	House Hunters	House Hunters	Holmes-Homes
	294	529	47	TBS	Family Guy	Family Guy	*The Alamo* ★★ (2004, War) Dennis Quaid, Jason Patric.				Seinfeld	*The Alamo* (2004, War)	
	576	582	49	BET	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live		*Linewatch* (2008, Drama) Cuba Gooding Jr., Sharon Leal.				The Game	The Game	W. Williams
	627	528	50	SPC	Stargate Atlantis (DVS)		Star Trek: Voyager		Primeval		Stormworld (N)	Grand Star	Stargate SG-1
	581	566	52	MTV	MTV Cribs	Nitro Circus	Nitro Circus	Fantasy Fact.	The Real World		The Real World (N)		MTV Live
	618	524	54	TROP	The Crow: Stairway to Heaven		What Happen?	What Happen?	Seinfeld	Raymond	Family Guy	Seinfeld	Seinfeld
	603	561	56	FOOD	Chef at Home	Fresh-Anna	Restaurant Makeover		Iron Chef America		The Next Food Network Star		Opening Soon
	261	394	60	V	Murder, She Wrote		Keeping Up	Foot in Grave	Doc Martin		Recreat. Eden	Prenup	Poltergeist
	621	527	63	STR	The Ellen DeGeneres Show		TMZ (N)	Hollywood	Canada's Next Top Model		Tonight Show-Conan O'Brien		TMZ
	553	546	65	TRE	Backyardigans	Nght Grdn	Max & Ruby	Franklin	Little Bear	Bucket-Dinos	Comfy Couch	Big & Small	Max & Ruby
	115	711	101	TVA	Les Gags	Histoires-filles	Les Anges de la rénovation		Nos étés (SC)		TVA 22 heures	Sucré-salé	*Le Mariage*
	126	730	102	RDI	24 Heures en 60 minutes		Grands reportages (SC)		Le Téléjournal (SC)		RDI en direct	Le National	Le Téléjournal
	526	507	249	VIVA	Judging Amy		Medium		The Closer		Mediums	Psychic Detect	Mediums
	300	601	301	M1	(7:10) *Almost Heaven* (2006, Romance-Comedy)				*I'm Not There* ★★★ (2007, Biography) Christian Bale.				*Wanted*
	305	612	306	PIX	*Two Solitudes*	*Gone Dark* ★ (2003, Crime Drama)			*Midnight Express* ★★★ (1978, Docudrama) Brad Davis.				*I Love-Uniform*

critics' corner

The Tudors
It's Christmastime, and with Katherine (Maria Doyle Kennedy) out of the picture, Anne Boleyn (Natalie Dormer) has a gift for Henry (Jonathan Rhys Meyers). She wants to consummate their relationship, but Henry's pal Charles (Henry Cavill) has some dirt on the lady. On the political front, the king strips England's Catholic Church of its authority ... and its tax revenue. 9 PM on CBC


The New Adventures of Old Christine
New Christine (Emily Rutherfurd) is a party animal — who knew? In this episode, Christine and Barb (Julia Louis-Dreyfus, Wanda Sykes) throw an impromptu bachelorette party for New Christine in Las Vegas and are shocked to see just how thoroughly she sheds her inhibitions. Heck, it surprises her, too. Clark Gregg also stars in "What Happens in Vegas Is Disgusting in Vegas." 8 PM on ACH-B CBS

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Baby for Betty star
Ugly Betty star Ashley Jensen, 38, and her husband, actor Terence Beesley, are expecting their first child in the fall, a rep for the actress confirmed exclusively to People. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Celebrity Buzz

Mischa getting back to work

BACK ON TRACK Mischa Barton has been released from a two-week stay in a Los Angeles psychiatric ward, and her spokesman says the actress getting back to work on her new series, The Beautiful Life.

Production on the series was delayed by a week and is now set to begin today.

METRO WORLD NEWS

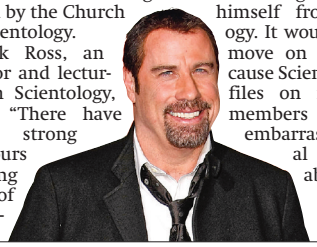
Still Scientologist, John says

DENIAL John Travolta has denied he has abandoned Scientology, femalefirst.co.uk reports. The 55-year-old actor was rumoured to have grown disenchanted with Scientology after the death of his son Jett in January.

But his representative Paul Bloch claims the star's faith is as strong as ever. Bloch told People magazine: "There's no change in the relationship between the Church of Scientology and John. He is a member and it's as it was, now and forever."

Jett was 16 years old when he died after suffering a seizure in the family's Bahamian holiday home. He was autistic, a condition not recognized by the Church of Scientology.

Rick Ross, an author and lecturer on Scientology, said: "There have been strong rumours coming out of Scientology that John Travolta is disappointed the religion was not able to help his son more.



"I think it would be very difficult for John Travolta at this stage to extricate himself from Scientology. It would be a huge move on his part because Scientology keeps files on its celebrity members containing embarrassing personal information about them."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Madge love letters for sale

THE PAST COMES BACK Someone's hitting the auction market with love letters Madonna sent to an ex-boyfriend back in the early '90s, according to Page Six.

In the letters, faxed from various hotels to James Albright — who was a bouncer at NYC nightclub Limelight at the time — Madonna compliments herself on her figure.

"Just watched the HBO special. It was OK," she wrote in one letter. "My booty looked good and you should see how good it looks in person. It looks Bootyful!"

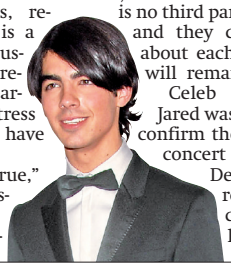
Bidding for the letters starts at $3,000 US, and answering-machine tapes containing messages the singer left for Albright are on the block for $25,000. The identity of the seller is unknown.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Tweens: Joe is single again

BAD FOR HIM, GOOD FOR THEM Teen girls, rejoice: Joe Jonas is a single man, usmagazine.com reports. The 19-year-old singer and actress Camilla Belle, 22, have called it quits.

"Yes, it's true," Belle's rep told usmagazine.com. "(Joe and Camilla) have broken up. There is no third party involved and they care deeply about each other and will remain friends."



Celeb blog Just-Jared was the first to confirm the split. At a concert Sunday in Detroit, Jonas reportedly changed the line "Get a rep for breakin' hearts, now I'm done with superstars" to "Get a rep for breakin' hearts, now I'm done with movie stars."

The two met last year on the set of music video Lovebug. Jonas split with Taylor Swift soon after meeting Belle, but insisted he "never cheated on a girlfriend."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Kristin finds her love match

SO HAPPY Kristin Davis and her Sex and the City character, Charlotte, may both have been unlucky in love, but it seems Davis has found a match in celebrity photographer Russell James, people.com reports.

"It's been going on for a bit now," said a source close to the actress. "She's very supportive of him, she seems very happy."

On July 20, the pair were spotted having dinner in Los Angeles. They sat in an intimate booth and were affectionate throughout dinner, says a witness. Davis rested her head against his shoulder.

"She was all smiles," said the onlooker. "A little giddy."

In June, Davis joined James to celebrate his new photography book in Santa Monica. "They hung out at the party and were definitely a little flirty even in public. They seemed like an item," said an observer at the time.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

K-Fed letting himself go?

WEIGHT Kevin Federline turned heads at a California golfing event Monday, usmagazine.com reports. But it wasn't over his golfing skills; it was over his size.

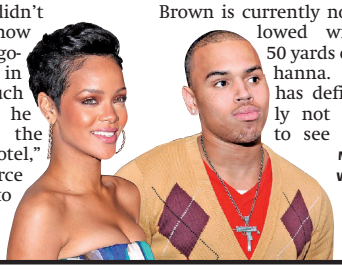
An employee on the grounds reportedly saw Federline, lounging on the patio with drinks and cigarettes, and remarked, "Man, that's a belly on him! That's K-Fed?"

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Ri and Chris had run-in?

HAIRY SITUATION Rihanna and Chris Brown ended up at the same New York hotel at the same time recently, but both claim it was a complete coincidence.

"Ri didn't even know Chris was going to be in town, much less that he was in the same hotel," a source close to Rihanna told Gatecrasher. "She's not dumb. She would never mess around with him again."



As for Brown, a source said, "Chris is taking the court orders seriously." Brown is currently not allowed within 50 yards of Rihanna. "He has definitely not tried to see her."

METRO WORLD NEWS

Cameron says 'yes'

IMPULSE DECISION Cameron Diaz has agreed to marry an unknown comic book fan, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The actress was unexpectedly proposed to while answering questions from fans at the Comic-Con 2009 convention in San Diego.

An unidentified man shouted out to the Hollywood actress: "Will you marry me?"

She answered: "Yes! Where are you? Why not?"

However, Diaz did have one stipulation for her potential fiancé — that they tie the knot in Las Vegas.

She added: "Can we get married in Vegas? I always wanted to get married in Vegas."

GETTY IMAGES

METRO WORLD NEWS

Nude life with the Radcliffe family

REVEALING Actor Daniel Radcliffe didn't mind stripping down for his Broadway show Equus last year. "I grew up always walking around naked," the 20-year-old told British gay magazine Attitude. "I've seen my mom naked, seen my dad naked. I don't actively seek to find them naked but it's never been a particularly big deal."

METRO WORLD NEWS

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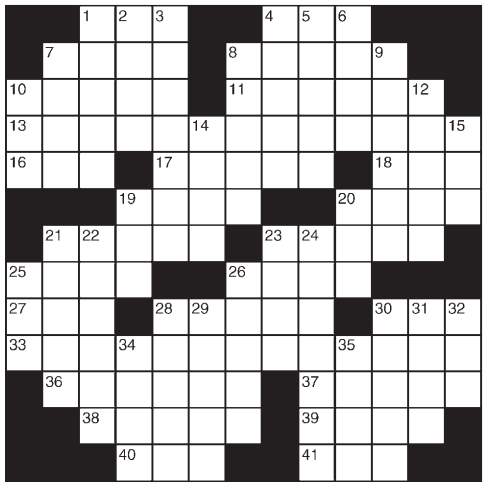
Take Five



Sudoku

For more/less challenging Sudoku puzzles, visit metronews.ca

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

1				6	3	9		2
8	6						1	
				4	2		6	
	5					8		
			9		5			
		6					2	
	7		5	9				
	8						7	9
2		4	6	7				3

ACROSS

1 Shell-game need
4 Whale group
7 Family
8 Less believable, as an excuse
10 With eyes wide open
11 Islands near Portugal
13 Government official
16 Links prop
17 Search
18 Cattle call?
19 Perry Mason portrayer
20 Ponce de —
21 Enticed
23 Clever
25 Spanish appetizer
26 De-bag the cat?
27 Perch
28 Baby's ailment
30 Commotion
33 Tina Turner hit
36 Injure
37 Doha's country
38 Knock- —
39 Fairy tale preposition
40 Screw up
41 Always, in verse

DOWN

1 West Point freshman
2 "My Name Is — "
3 It's nothing new
4 Stares
5 Lifeless, old-style
6 TV mogul Griffin
7 Fingerprint, often
8 "Star Wars" weapon
9 Hole-shaping tool
10 Suitable
12 Beezer
14 It gets in the whey
15 Heavy weight
19 Underwear with underwire
20 Science workshop
21 Dens
22 Increase
23 Lost traction
24 Rhesus monkey
25 1/6 fl. oz.
26 Run, as colours
28 Supply the food
29 Different
30 Thespian
31 Campus bigwig
32 Bobby of hockey
34 Barn-roof attachment
35 Scruff

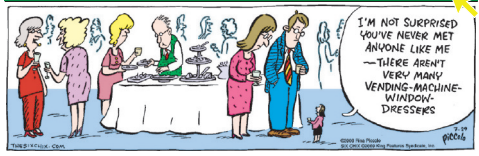
PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

T	B	S	P		U	T	E		S	I	G	H
R	E	A	R		N	R	A		U	L	N	A
A	L	G	A		W	O	R	D	P	L	A	Y
P	L	A	Y	B	O	Y		R	E	S	T	S
			E	O	N		M	A	R			
R	E	T	R	O		B	O	Y	B	A	N	D
O	R	E			D	I	P			N	E	O
B	A	N	D	B	O	X		F	A	I	T	H
			A	L	E		M	O	B			
U	L	T	R	A		B	O	X	S	E	A	T
S	E	A	T	B	E	L	T		O	L	I	O
P	A	L	E		G	E	E		R	U	D	E
S	P	E	D		O	W	L		B	L	E	D

2	3	6	4	1	5	7	9	8
7	8	1	2	9	3	5	6	4
5	9	4	6	8	7	2	1	3
6	4	5	8	2	1	9	3	7
8	2	9	3	7	6	4	5	1
3	1	7	5	4	9	8	2	6
4	6	8	9	3	2	1	7	5
9	7	3	1	5	4	6	8	2
1	5	2	7	6	8	3	4	9

On the web

Find more games to play + more cartoons by the Six Chix at metronews.ca



Metro Recipe of the Day

Chicken, Avocado and Alfalfa Club

INGREDIENTS:

1 1/2 tbsp (20 ml) lime juice
1 tsp (5 ml) olive oil
1/2 red onion, very thinly sliced
1/2 avocado
Dash of Tabasco or chili sauce
2 tbsp (25 ml) light mayonnaise
2 tbsp (25 ml) chopped cilantro
6 slices whole wheat bread
6 oz (175 g) cooked, skinless chicken breast fillet, sliced
2 tomatoes, thinly sliced
3/4 cup (175 ml) alfalfa sprouts

METHOD:

1. Whisk together 2 tsp (10 ml) lime juice, olive oil and a little pepper in small bowl. Add onion slices and toss to coat. Set aside to allow onion to mellow in flavour while you prepare remaining ingredients.
2. Roughly mash avocado with fork. Add remaining lime juice and Tabasco or chili sauce to taste, and carry on mashing until mixture is fairly smooth. Mix mayonnaise with cilantro.
3. Toast bread until lightly browned.
4. Spread two slices of toast thinly with mayonnaise, then spread with half the mashed avocado, dividing equally. Top with chicken and onion slices. Spread another two slices of toast very thinly with mayonnaise, then place over chicken filling, mayonnaise-side down. Spread half remaining mayonnaise thinly over tops of sandwiches. Spread with remaining avocado, then add layer of sliced tomatoes and sprouts.
5. Finally, spread last of mayonnaise over last two slices of toast and place on sandwiches, mayonnaise-side down. Press sandwiches together, then cut each in half. Serve immediately.

SERVES 2

rd.ca

For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to **rd.ca** or check out **Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!**

Horoscopes by Sally Brompton

sallybrompton.com

ARIES ♈
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
Cosmic activity in your fellow Fire sign of Leo means you not only have enough energy to get things done for yourself but for other people as well.

TAURUS ♉
APRIL 21-MAY 21
It may seem as if the odds are stacked against you but really they're not — it's just an illusion brought about by too narrow a focus.

GEMINI ♊
MAY 22-JUNE 21
You're not much in the mood for serious things at the moment, and that's just as well because there will be no end of opportunities for fun.

CANCER ♋
JUNE 22-JULY 22
Aim to balance your pursuit of financial stability with something of an intellectual, emotional or even a spiritual nature.

LEO ♌
JULY 23-AUG 23
Set your sights high today, and for the remainder of the week, but not so high that you risk failure or exhaustion, or both.

VIRGO ♍
AUG 24-SEPT 22
Keep what you have discovered about a friend or family member to yourself today, especially if it is the kind of knowledge that could cause trouble.

LIBRA ♎
SEPT 23-OCT 23
It seems that someone in a position of power is beginning to recognize that you are more than just another pretty face.

SCORPIO ♏
OCT 24-NOV 22
You may be ambitious by nature but you need to be ambitious about something that is genuinely worthy of your time and your energy.

SAGITTARIUS ♐
NOV 23-DEC 21
You like to be noticed but don't get carried away or you might be noticed for something that has a harmful effect on your career or reputation.

CAPRICORN ♑
DEC 22-JAN 20
The Sun's transit of the wealth sector of your chart means it will pay you in the long-term to be a little less independent in the short-term.

AQUARIUS ♒
JAN 21-FEB 18
You may be under pressure at the moment but it will bring out the best in you. You could make things easier for yourself by not taking life so seriously.

PISCES ♓
FEB 19-MARCH 20
You may have deadlines to meet and tasks to complete but make time for other things too.

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*MSRP for 2010 Forte 2.0L MT (FO540A) is $15,695. Delivery and destination fees of $1,455 excluded. ◆Purchase price for 2009 Rio EX MT (RO5429)/2009 Rondo LX AT (RN7519) is $9,995/$17,495 and includes a cash rebate of $3,600/$2,500 based on an MSRP of $13,595/$19,995. Delivery and destination fees of $1,455/$1,650 excluded. License, registration, insurance, dealer administration fees and taxes are excluded. Other lease and finance options also available. Dealers are free to set individual prices. Prices subject to change without notice. Certain restrictions may apply. ✚Cash back and 0% purchase financing available on all 2009 models for 48 months on approved credit (O.A.C.). Cash back amount varies by model. Not applicable on future value financing. §Kia's Integrity Advantage is underwritten by Echelon General Insurance Company and is valid on any new Kia model financed or leased through an authorized Kia dealer, for up to one year after purchase, and covers negative equity up to $7,500. Please refer to your Kia Integrity Advantage insurance policy document for full terms and conditions. Only available at participating dealers. Restrictions apply. Coverage options vary by province. See your participating Kia dealer for details. The Echelon General Insurance Company logo is a Registered Trademark of Echelon General Insurance Company. ▪Highway/city fuel consumption for 2010 Forte LX MT is 5.8 L (49 MPG)/8.3 L (34 MPG); 2009 Rio EX MT is 5.9 L (48 MPG)/7.3 L (39 MPG); 2009 Rondo LX is 7.5 L (38 MPG)/10.6 L (27 MPG) per 100km. The actual fuel consumption of these vehicles may vary. These estimates are based on the Government of Canada's approved criteria and testing methods. Refer to the Government of Canada publication EnerGuide Fuel Consumption Guide. ‡Green Score for Kia Rio/Rondo based on manual/automatic transmission specification within their segment. Refer to GreenerCars.org for full details. †NHTSA (National Highway Traffic Safety Administration) test results. Visit www.safercar.gov for full details. †Visit auto.msn.com for full details. *Conditions apply to the $500 Grad Rebate program, see dealer for details. ▪Some conditions may apply to the $750 Kia Mobility program. See dealer for details. ▼Kia's "Worry-Free Comprehensive" warranty covers most vehicle components against defects occurring under normal use and maintenance conditions. Bluetooth technology and SIRIUS® Satellite Radio available on select 2009 and 2010 models. The Bluetooth® word mark and logo are registered trademarks and are owned by Bluetooth SIG, Inc. © 2009 SIRIUS Canada Inc. See dealer for details. Price, availability and specifications are subject to changes without notice. Some vehicles advertised may include optional accessories or after-sale equipment and may not be exactly as shown. Information in this advertisement is believed to be accurate at the time of print. Offer ends July 31, 2009 and is valid for residents of Ontario and Manitoba only. KIA is a trademark of Kia Motors Corporation.